

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26TH, 2021 AT 6:00PM
TOWN HALL, SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Antanavica called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Chair Rick Antanavica, Vice-Chair John Shocik, Second Vice-Chair Herb Duggan Jr., Selectman Dianna Provencher, Selectman Allen Phillips, School Committee members, Finance Advisory Board members, Town Administrator David Genereux and Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg were in attendance.

1. Discuss Becker College Potential Acquisition, Debt Exclusion and Override

The potential acquisition of Becker was discussed including:

- The proposed \$19.9M debt exclusion.
- Proceeds from the future sale of any properties is required to be used to offset the debt exclusion. This revenue can't be used to create a maintenance fund.
- If approved by the voters in September, the Town would go out for temporary borrowing for approximately 2 years. During this period, the cost to the average home would be approximately \$138 as the Town is only paying interest, not principal.
- Town Counsel will double check with the Dept. of Revenue regarding the possibility of a sunset override.
- The annual cost of insurance is \$52,000 and the estimated cost of electricity alone is \$150,000.
- For now, the Town would only be able to use the football field and would winterize the buildings.
- The school is contributing \$265,000 for the Town to maintain all their buildings.
- The Board would like all buildings inspected for issues.
- School Committee members expressed concerns about funding operating costs, noting the override is for the entire Town, not just the schools.
- The Town will not have authorization to sell assets until the deal is closed. The Town can, however, lease out space.
- Members of the public expressed concerns about seniors being able to afford this tax increase.
- The Board discussed moving forward with just the debt exclusion and transferring funds from free cash to support operating costs for the year. The Board would request authorization from Town Meeting to dispose of surplus property and may come back later for a n override.

a. Set Special Town Meeting date/time/location for Becker purchase/override: September 14, 2021 @ 7:00pm.

b. Set Special Election date/time/location for Becker purchase/override: September 21, 2021 from 12pm-8pm at the Town Hall Gym.

Motion 072621-1 (part 1): A motion was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to set the Special Town Meeting for September 14th, 2021 @ 7:00pm and to include articles regarding property disposition and transfers from free cash at the as-needed at the discretion of the Select Board and to set the Special Election for September 21st, 2021 from 12:00pm-8:00pm in the Town Hall Gym for the Becker Debt Exclusion only. Motion carried 5:0:0.

Motion 072621-1 (part 2): A motion was made by Mr. Philips and seconded by Ms. Provencher to hold the Becker Special Town Meeting in the Middle School Gym. Motion carried 5:0:0

Motion 072621-2: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Antanavica at 7:23pm. Motion carried 5:0:0.