

Town of Isle La Motte
Select Board/School District Joint Meeting
March 15, 2017
Isle La Motte Elementary School/5:30 PM

DRAFT

Members in attendance: Steve Stata-Selectman/Chair, Rustam Spaulding-Selectman, Selby Turner-Selectman, Jane Zera-School Director/Chair, Louise Koss-School Director & Keri Johnson-School Director

Others in attendance: Michele Murray-Select Board Clerk-Clerk/Treasurer, Debbie Spaulding-Lister/Chair, Art Larvey-Trustee of Public Funds, Barbara Larvey, Peter Murray, Paul Zera-Justice of the Peace, Barbara Callahan & Sylvia Jensen

The meeting was called to order by Jane Zera-School Director Chair at 5:37 PM on March 15, 2017.

1. Discussion/decision school budget validation process:

Louise Koss had discussion; have had conversations with town attorney, school attorney and Secretary of State; a few options are available to move forward. The suggestion is to be as transparent as possible with a corrective action to distribute the information (budget, etc.) this will be done in the same manner as Town Meeting. With a notice (send out post card announcing the information is available).

A Special meeting will be warned to meet at the school on a Saturday for a discussion on the vote and the School District budget. Vote by Australian Ballot will be the following Tuesday at the Town Hall. This will be handled this way as to avoid further time spent getting the vote done in case someone comes along and files a petition to request the vote be handled this way instead of a ratification vote by hands at a special meeting.

Spaulding had discussion; it would be very unfortunate that some spoiler would do something like this causing the town to spend more monies.

Sylvia Jensen; had discussion/question, how is a revote on a school budget handled?

Louise Koss had discussion; a revote is handled differently.

Louise Koss had discussion; looking at a lot of additional expenses, absentee ballots, warning time frame, informational postcards, time spent doing and sending out postcards, the work load to get the additional work done, sending out the paperwork (budget & additional information).

Stata had discussion; what is the town costs vs the school costs. Typically the town absorbs any costs due to voting.

Louise Koss had discussion; the cost for the work pertaining to this should not be a burden of the school nor should all the work be the burden of neither the town clerk nor the school treasurer, not in her normal job description.

Turner had discussion; would do this, who is responsible?

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; the Town Auditors are responsible for doing the postcards according to the Auditor handbook (distribution of town report).

Stata had discussion; the Auditors must do the postcards.

Turner had discussion; will the Auditors be paid for this work.

Stata had discussion; there is a budgetary issue. Strides will be made to not over spend this fiscal year on this budget line item.

Sylvia Jensen; what has been done in the past when errors by other officials have been made.

Stata had discussion; these costs were absorbed within the budget and not over spent. There has been a budgeted amount for Auditor expenses and this has gone over. In the future if, this budget item goes over then the work is going to be stopped.

Louise Koss; Cathy Tudhope has offered to help at no cost.

Debbie Spaulding had discussion; will Cathy Tudhope's offer be utilized? Louise Koss; yes.

Keri Johnson had discussion; as a former auditor the amount over spent by the Auditors is ridiculous. 12-15 hours were all that was spent on the audit each year for the three years I was auditor. Files opened and looked at were not the responsibility of the auditors.

Jane Zera had discussion; the school board will be present during the work of the auditors to be sure there are no mistakes.

Boards agreed that, the date for the vote will be May 2, 2017 with the special meeting date to be Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Sylvia Jensen; question, how much does a warning cost to put in the Islander paper?

Michele had discussion; depends on how lengthy the warning is and, is posted two consecutive weeks. For many years it has been posted for two weeks.

Motion made to adjourn, 2nd by Johnson, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted: Michele Murray-Select Board Clerk & Jane Zera-School Board Chair

Steve Stata-Select Board _____ Date _____

Rustam Spaulding-Select Board _____ Date _____

Selby Turner-Select Board _____ Date _____

Jane Zera-School Director _____ Date _____

Louise Koss-School Director _____ Date _____

Keri Johnson-School Director _____ Date _____