

Isle La Motte Town School District Annual Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2016
Isle La Motte Elementary School

Present: Rustam Spaulding-Town Moderator and Selectman, Stephen Stata-Selectman Chair, Selby Turner-Selectman, Michele Murray-Town Clerk, Betty Lockerby-Justice of the Peace, Cathy Tudhope-Justice of the Peace, Sylvia Jensen-Justice of the Peace, Debbie Spaulding-Lister, Louise Koss-Lister & School Board Director, Mary LaBrecque-Delinquent Tax Collector, Barbara Callahan-School Board Director & Trustee of Public Funds, Jennifer Rafferty-School Board Director, Peter Murray, Joyce Tuck, Marjorie Bertram, Carol Stata, Allen Hall, Lucinda Virga, Robert Varga, Barbara Larvey, Arthur Larvey, Dale Patnode, John Yaratz, Ann McKay, Jane Zera, Paul Zera, Charles Gurney, William Fish, Jackie Jarvis, Maureen Turner, William Howland and three (3) unknown people.

Non-voters: Brenda Delude, Isle La Motte School Principal Thomas Tregan, Barbara Burrington-Superintendent of Schools, Mike Deweese-Consultant for Vermont School Board Association, Andrew Julow-Chairman of Act 46 Grand Isle County Study Committee, Mitz Johnson-Representative, Bob Kreps-Representative, Phyllis Firth

The meeting was called to order by School Moderator Rustam Spaulding at 10:00 AM on February 27, 2016. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Spaulding. Non-voters in the room were asked to identify themselves.

Debbie Spaulding made a motion to allow non-voters to speak, 2nd by Betty Lockery, all in favor.

Moderator Spaulding read from the School District warning and turned the meeting over to Mike Deweese-Consultant for Vermont School Board Association.

Mr. Deweese had discussion on Act 46;

Thanked the Isle La Motte School Board for the invitation.

Five schools in the district belong to Grand Isle Supervisory Union.

State wide trend; student enrollment, there were more students before the civil war than there are now. There is a large declining enrollment of students. As of last month 37 students are in the building and 27 tuition students.

Cost per pupil was discussed.

Phase 1-provides incentives to a new district that is formed by the merger of all districts within a single supervisory union and that meets certain additional criteria, including becoming operational as a supervisory district by July 1, 2017

Phase 2-provides incentives for governance changes a supervisory union with multiple merged member districts.

Phase 3-provides incentives to a new district formed by a merger of two or more districts that meets certain additional criteria, including being operational as a supervisory district by July 2109.

Provides tools boards can use to better align shared resources behind core goals.

Act 46 does not; encourage or require closure of schools – including small schools, restrict or repeal the authority of school districts to continue to pay tuition.

Discussion; what shall the five schools in the district do, different possibilities were discussed.

Incentives discussed; homestead property tax reduction during first 5 years of operation, income-payers' percentage adjusted accordingly.

New school district board; not more than eighteen members or less than five will make up the board.

A Fact sheet was handed out that summarizes the discussion.

Other discussion;

Selby Turner-real estate values of the school buildings? Answer; Committee is still making a decision. Steve Stata; selling property back to the Town, paying money back used during construction, use for the building.

Louise Koss; selling the school building, town utilizing the building.

Barbara Burrington; cap on spending. Spending threshold per equalized pupil, this is removed for next year; do not know what it will be replaced with.

Selby Turner; what happens if a town pulls out of the district, how many towns have to be in the district?

Barbara Burrington; spending over the threshold. Exempt thresholds.

Rustam Spaulding; reduction in taxes over a period of time, will state cover under hold harmless?

Answer; State will cover under education fund. What happens after 2022? Answer; good question.

Spaulding thanked Mike and Barbara.

Grand Isle County Sheriff Department/Dustin Able had discussion; budget has a 1.5% increase due to mainly insurance costs. No major accidents in Grand Isle County. 1% of all the warnings issued are in Isle La Motte.

No questions for Sheriff Able.

Bill Howland thanked the Sheriff Department for responding to rescue calls

Moderator Spaulding turned the meeting over to the School Board.

Lousie Koss Chair introduced Principal Tom Tregan. Mr. Tregan had discussion; best quality education, expose kids to more kids, opportunity for enrichment. Grades 2, 3 4, 5, and 6 the best person is put in charge of the kids. Math specialist teaches grades 2-6. Specialist 2-6 for science and social studies, no teachers were added to accomplish.

Grades 4-6 students are getting out more, trips off the island.

A \$30,000 grant for books and additional training and possible summer camp.

Playground equipment needed to be removed quickly and was done at no cost. A \$10,000 grant will be used for new play structures.

There were no questions for Principal Tregan.

Louise Koss had discussion;

Proposed budget is \$72,500 higher, a 6.39% increase. Tuition rates have increased and the number of additional tuition students increased. Increase of 7.9% in insurance.

Food Service is a separate business. This has gone up approx. \$16,000. The school district funneled money into this program and would ask for funds to help. This cost is not budgeted each year except for the line item being funded to it. A deficit needs to be covered for this program, last year the deficit was approx. \$20,000, this year is approx. \$22,000 this large amount is being budgeted. In the future a different food service plan and the way it is paid for will be looked into.

Other increases and decreases were discussed.

The amount to be raised by taxes is actually less than last year and the amount that is in the town report is slightly off.

Calculation for equalized student is very, very confusing. The school is still in the range so there are no penalties.

Maureen Turner thanked the School Board.

Sylvia Jensen had discussion; what is the determination of the study of the designated high school?

Carol Stata responded; the information gathered was turned over to the school board.

Koss had discussion; the school board has the information, with Act 46 and the budget it has not been moved forward.

Jensen had discussion; middle school program within Act 46.

Barbara Burrington had discussion; what time schools start in the mornings has a big impact on truancy issues.

Carol Stata had discussion; the transition for her grandkids going to NY state school has gone well.

Koss had discussion; the school will be switching over to Surf Global in 2017. The Town office, Fire Station and the Library will be offered Surf Global (free Wi-Fi) under the contract.

The town's people will be offered Wi-Fi service with Surf Global.

Mary LaBrecque had discussion; budget item, special education. A large decrease makes the difference. No other questions.

Mitz Johnson/Rep., had discussion; reports are located at the back table. Focus continues to be he budget.

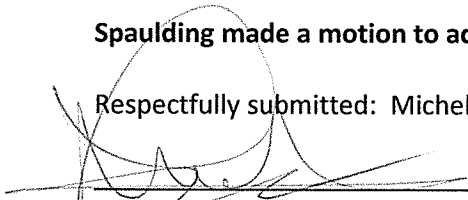
Bob Kreps/Rep., had discussion; water and water quality.

Clean water act #64.

Waste water disposal bill.

Spaulding made a motion to adjourn.

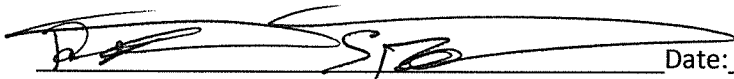
Respectfully submitted: Michele Murray, Town Clerk



Date:

3/10/16

Louise Koss, School Board Chair



Date:

3-10-16

Rustam Spaulding, School Moderator