

Special Town Meeting
Minutes
April 20, 2017 7:00 p.m.
Middle/Senior High School Auditorium

A meeting in which the inhabitants of the Town qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs were notified by warrant issued by the Board of Selectmen and posted by Constable Bruce L. Holmquist on April 6, 2017. The opening of the meeting was delayed due to the number of voters still in line to be checked in at 7:00PM. The Special Town Meeting was opened at 7:45 PM by Moderator James Benson with 470 qualified voters and 8 guests. The meeting proceeded as follows:

Moderator James Benson exercised his right by Art #3 section #12 of the Town of West Bridgewater's General By-Laws and called for ballot vote on article #1

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$4.5 million, to purchase River Bend Country Club, located at 250 East Center Street, or take any other action

MOVE: That the Town borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$4.5 million, to purchase River Bend Country Club, located at 250 East Center Street, said real estate consisting of approximately 167 acres, more or less, as described in a deed recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 14890, Page 142.

Anthony Kinahan made motion and it was seconded a brief video presentation on the golf course. Anthony Kinahan and David Gagne spoke about the article.

FIN COM: Voted to support the article, 6 members voted unanimously.

BOS: Voted to support the article selectmen recommend, Eldon Moriera says he voted against it was not unanimous.

Neil Conley asked for the selectmen to speak about how they feel about the vote.

Eldon Moreira has concerns about the cost of the golf course. He is against it.

Jerry Lawrence thinks it is a spectacular property and wants to preserve open space. He voted for it. Anthony Kinahan said they found way to preserve an 160 acres without costing the town money. He voted for it.

Several others spoke about the article.

The question of CPA monies was brought up as a way to pay for it. Jeri Scenci from Fin Com said that because of the way the CPA money has to be divided there is not enough money for this purchase.

Warren Turner moved the question it was seconded

Passed unanimously

The Tellers were sworn in by Town Clerk, Anne Iannitelli, Town Clerk

Tellers: Joan McAndrew, Sandra Irving, Louise Domingos, Sharon Ledin, Kathleen Grant , Maureen Adams, Marion Loughman, John Hughes, Arthur Cabral, Scott Fortier and Joseph Kennedy.

UPON VOTE, MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 MAJORITY
BALLOT VOTE YES: 370 NO: 93

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding the following as Article 55 of the Town General Bylaws:

ARTICLE 55

TOWN GOLF COURSE REVOLVING FUND

Section 1. The Town shall establish a revolving fund pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44 §53E½ for the purpose of administering income received from operation of the Town Golf Course. For purposes of this bylaw, the Town Golf Course is the 18-hole golf course known as the River Bend Country Club, located at 250 East Center Street in the Town of West Bridgewater, occupying approximately 167 acres of land, more or less, and including all buildings and facilities located thereon.

Section 2. The program for which the revolving fund may be expended is the Town Golf Course. All maintenance, costs, expenses, fees, debt service, bond payments, insurance premiums, legal fees and other obligations of the Town, resulting from the Town's acquisition, ownership, control, management or oversight of the Town Golf Course, are part of said program for which the revolving fund may be expended.

Section 3. All income received from any management company contracting with the Town to manage the Town Golf Course, and all other income received from the acquisition or operation of the Town Golf Course, shall be credited to the revolving fund.

Section 4. The Board authorized to expend from such fund is the Board of Selectmen.

Section 5. Annual spending limits for the revolving fund shall be set pursuant to the requirements of M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E ½ .

Section 6. Upon termination of the revolving fund, the balance in the fund at the end of that fiscal year shall revert to surplus revenue at the close of the fiscal year.

MOVE: That the Town amend the General Bylaws by adding Article 55 as printed on the Warrant.

Anthony Kinahan made motion and it was seconded

BOS: Voted to support the article unanimously.

FIN COM: Voted to support the article 6 members unanimously.

David Gagne spoke to the article

UPON VOTE, MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to set the upper limit on expenditures from the Town Golf Course Revolving Fund established under Article 55 of the Town By-Laws at \$400,000.00, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOVE: That the Town set the upper limit on expenditures from the Town Golf Course Revolving Fund established under Article 55 of the Town Bylaws at \$400,000.

Anthony Kinahan made motion and it was seconded

BOS: Voted to support the article unanimously.

FIN COM: Voted to support the article 6 members unanimously.


David Gagne spoke to the article

UPON VOTE, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A motion was made to dissolve the meeting and it was seconded.

Upon Vote the Meeting was dissolved at 9:40 PM.

A true copy, Attest:



Anne G. Iannitelli, Town Clerk