

June 24, 2009 – Minutes of the Special Town Meeting

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym. There were 131 Registered voters in attendance

Article 1: To elect a moderator. ***Stuart Marckoon was nominated and 2nd to be moderator. There were no other nominations. Mr. Marckoon was elected on a written ballot 6-0. Mr. Marckoon took the oath of office from Town Clerk Kovacs. Mr. Marckoon asked for a motion to allow non-residents to speak at the moderator's discretion. It was moved and 2nd. The motion passed on a hand vote.***

Article 2: To see if the town will vote to reduce the amount raised and appropriated for capital expenditures for Fiscal Year 2009/10 at the annual town meeting held April 8, 2009 to \$27,750 to reflect a reduction of the potential fire truck debt service payment from \$15,000 to \$8,750. (The total amount approved on Article 15 on April 8, 2009 was \$34,000.00. Passage would reduce that amount by \$6,250.00) ***It was moved and 2nd to pass the article as written. There was no discussion. The motion passed on a hand vote.***

Article3: To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate for the purpose of tuition payments to non-RSU #24 secondary schools for students choosing to attend such schools for tuition in excess of the cost of a student to attend high school within the jurisdiction of RSU #24. (The school committee recommends \$25,167.75) ***It was moved and 2nd to pass the article with the school committee recommendation. Discussion included what MDI High School offers that RSU 24 high schools don't. RSU 24 representative Jon Morren said Lamoine is still under contract with MDI High School. Resident Duane Crawford asked why the contracted amount would not be honored. Mr. Morren explained that the RSU would only pay up to the cost of educating a student at Ellsworth and Sumner High School. Mr. Crawford spoke of the history of the Lamoine school system. Evelyn Farrell asked if such a question will have to be voted on in future years. Leah Treadwell explained the cost coverage situation. Tammy Dickey asked how much more it would cost in taxes for a typical household. Mr. Marckoon said his calculation was approximately \$20 on a \$200,000 property. There was a lengthy discussion about tuition costs. Richard Fennelly asked if a receiving school could charge less than the RSU budgeted price. MDI Superintendent Rob Liebow said they could. Mr. Morren inquired what the cost was for parents sending students to John Bapst. Jo Cooper said they did have to pay a little extra, but parents knew that ahead of time.***

Selectman Richard Fennelly moved to vote on the question by written ballot. The motion was 2nd. The motion failed on a hand vote of 42 yes to 80 no.

Discussion continued. Robert Christie talked about having school choice and how much MDI's tuition would be in future years. Margaret Stewart said she didn't think it was a very high price to pay. It was moved and 2nd to end debate. The motion passed on a hand vote by the required 2/3 majority.

The main motion passed on a hand vote.

Moderator Marckoon explained that there will have to be a follow up town meeting to override the municipal tax commitment limit imposed by LD1. Selectman Cynthia Donaldson asked that the present School Committee be thanked for their hard work. Citizens showed their appreciation to Faith Perkins, Bob Pulver, Christina Maguire-Harding, Nancy Sargent and Kathleen Rybarz.

Article 4: To see if the town will adopt an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Establish the Lamoine Local School Advisory Committee". ***It was moved and 2nd to approve the ordinance. Questions included why an advisory committee is needed if they have not power. Mr. Morren explained that a committee is not required, but questions can be forwarded through the committee to him and to the RSU board. Wendi Meyer asked if she was required to go through the local advisory committee or could she speak directly to Mr. Morren. Mr. Morren said people can still ask him questions directly.***

It was moved and 2nd to cease debate. The motion passed on a hand vote. The motion to approve the ordinance creating the Local School Advisory Committee passed on a hand vote.

There being no further business, Moderator Marckoon declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kovacs, Town Clerk.