

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, April 8, 2014  
7pm  
Hampton Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Chair Jeff Clermont.

Members present: Ed Adelman, Nick Brown, Rick Matejka, Jeff Clermont, Dan Meade, Penny Newbury.  
Alternates present: Rheo Brouillard.

Members/alternates absent: Luciann Norton, Mike Higgins.

Also present: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Al Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Hampton Elementary School (HES) Board of Education (BoE) Chair John Burnham, HES BoE member Maryellen Donnelly, HES Superintendent Paul Graseck, HES Principal Elise Guari, HES Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux, Conservation Commission Chair Randy Thompson, Recording Clerk Kathi Newcombe and several audience members.

**Citizen Comments:**

Randy Thompson spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission in favor of the \$20,000 added back into the Open Space account; he said that once the funds are used to purchase a piece of land or a protection on land, it is good for life and little maintenance is needed. He said that current land being categorized as “open space” is actually private land which could be subdivided, sold and built upon at any time. He maintained that protecting open space does not keep anyone out of town, as had been suggested at a previous meeting, since there are already so many subdivided lots available on which no houses have been built.

Mark Becker stated that the knowledge and experience of the HES administrators far exceeds that of everyone else in town, and hoped the Board of Finance (BoF) respects their assessment on what’s required for the school as well as that of the BoE whose members’ total education experience equals about a hundred years; he stated that the BoE had kept the budget at a zero-percent increase for 4-5 years in a row.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola took issue with the HES BoE response to a request for a ranking of HES CT Mastery Test (CMT) scores compared to other cities/towns for the last 10 years, the response being a specific comparison of Hampton and Bridgeport test results at all grades and levels. She said that her comments at a previous meeting concerning test scores were made not etc., because the districts are comparable but because they are incomparable, and restated her comments; she feels it’s a demographic impossibility for Hampton to have test scores lower than in inner cities with their problems of kids living in homeless shelters, in “war zones”, half of whom are not English-speaking, etc., problems which Hampton does not have. She felt that Hampton should instead have been compared to its DRG (District Reference Group), and the response was not fair to the questioner. She had raised the issue of test scores in relation to how they impact the decisions made about the budget. She suggested that cutting back on specials, offering extra to the upper grades but concentrating on the basics in the primary grades, would be in order considering this is not the first time the third grade has scored this poorly overall. She said that taxpayers will be looking at the staffing levels, in light of reduced census

and poor test results, and suggested classes could be combined either at the classroom level or during specials without negatively impacting students. She stated that praising the 40 donors to the education donation fund was wonderful, but the 282 voters who in October stated the school budget was too high at a level \$124,000 less than is being proposed in this budget should also be respected.

Kathy Donahue quoted from the Strategic School profiles of other districts in eastern CT; she noted that most towns offer 24-27 hours of Art per week as opposed to 48 hours/week at HES, while the state average is 32 hours/week; she also said the number of hours of instruction in Math and English at HES is below the state average and these are areas in which the school has been having real problems. She said that citizens have offered some creative solutions using strategic ways to combine grades; she said that other schools using team teaching and combining classes with students leveling up and down for different subjects, as has been done in other school systems when faced with these kinds of numbers. She felt it was unhealthy to have a class of only 8 or 10 especially looking at the male/female ratio. She suggested that there were lots of ways to bring the budget down significantly, such as shifting duties and making cuts to administration and the business coordinator. She said that it took four referenda last year to pass the budget; she feels the people spoke loudly and she hopes this Board will take a serious look at the budget so last year will not be repeated.

Supt. Graseck, although not a citizen, wanted to address statements that were previous made. He said he had zero interest in comparing Hampton with Bridgeport, but that the reference had been made. He wanted to correct what he characterized as distortions and misrepresentations. He mentioned the book *How to Lie with Statistics* and suggested that the BoF understands how statistics can be bent, moved and pushed around in many ways. He asked for a chance to make a brief presentation about comparing to Bridgeport; Jeff asked him to defer his comments to the HES BoE on the agenda.

John Gorman spoke about his concern that the class performing so poorly in third grade would also be deficient in their skills by the time they reached middle and high school. He spoke in favor of combining grades as it offers opportunities for peer guidance, leadership and competition inspire kids to perform at a higher level. He claimed that the right type of leadership in front of the classroom can inspire leadership in the classroom and would generate better performance and better academic health and atmosphere.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Ed found an uncompleted sentence on page 3 of the 3/11 minutes where Mike, Dan and Rheo had comments about real estate values, and thought that it was not stated clearly enough that some of Rheo's comments in response to Mike were opinion; Ed thought he remembered that Mike said budgets and referenda were diminishing housing values while Rheo said it was more dependent on test scores and the fact that taxes here are relatively high. Nick thought that Mike was saying the public perception of cutting the school budget 5.5% impacts the perception of the town when there are op-eds in the Hartford Courant. Nick went on to say that the cut was unprecedented and challenged the citizens who had previously commented to name another town that had cut their budget as much. He thought that Hampton had cut their budget more than any other town in the state, perhaps in all of New England. It was suggested that the approval be tabled until the Recording Clerk could check the audiotape of the meeting.

#### **Penny moved and Ed seconded to table until the next meeting approval of the 3/11/13 Board of Finance meeting; motion passed unanimously.**

Penny found a place on page 2, paragraph 3 in the 3/18 meeting minutes, where she felt that the statement "last year there was no raise" should be amended to say "last year there was no cost-of-living increase" because the town has no merit pay policy in place, therefore only cost-of-living increases are appropriate; Penny felt the intent of the statement was cost-of-living increase. It was suggested that this approval also should be tabled until the Recording Clerk could check the audiotape of the meeting.

**Dan moved and Ed seconded to table until the next meeting approval of the 3/18/13 Board of Finance meeting; motion passed unanimously.**

Nick stated that Dayna McDermott-Arriola's comments in the 3/25 meeting minutes were an extreme statement and factually inaccurate; he challenged Dayna to confirm that she had said exactly that and questioned whether the statement should stand in the minutes.

Kathy Donahue called a point of order on challenging an audience member on her comments as recorded in the minutes; there was no ruling.

Jeff thought there was an inaccuracy in the minutes and that Dayna, who had reiterated her previous statement during citizen comments, had specified "in the third grade," a phrase not included in the minutes. Ed said also that in the budget worksession, the word "more" should be inserted after "\$1,658," and he questioned whether Supt. Graseck identified the "major publication" that was referenced in his comments; Supt. Graseck said he did not identify the publication and did not classify it as "major." Ed also thought that the comments on page 5 concerning applications for grants should be clarified that Supt. Graseck was talking about the security grant when he said he received bad information on eligibility. Supt. Graseck was not sure if it was the security grant or one of the other grants on which he received incorrect information and would have to check. It was decided that the approval would be tabled until the Recording Clerk could check the audiotape of the meeting.

**Penny Newbury moved and Rick Matejka seconded to table until the next meeting approval of the 3/25/13 Board of Finance meeting; motion passed unanimously.**

**Presentations:** None.

**Reports/Action:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Al Cahill spoke about the recent successful tax sale, generating \$270,000. At the special town meeting the previous evening, the question about paying off the school roof was tabled and moved to the call of the annual meeting. There was a request from the tax collector concerning dairy abatement which had not been passed on to the BoF; he asked that it be added to the next agenda. He suggested that the Capital budget be separated from the General Government budget, similarly to the way it is done in Columbia, Mansfield, Coventry and many other towns. Al has spoken with the auditor and checked ordinances, and there is no prohibition to doing so; he is still waiting to hear back from town counsel on the subject. The plan is that the Capital/Non-Recurring accounts and debt service would be in the Capital budget, as well as funds set aside for trucks, equipment, fire truck and other projects; Penny asked how the taxpayers would react to the change. Al stated that it will be very confusing to explain the General Government budget bottom line with and without the line item paying off the roof. If the taxpayers vote to pay off the school roof loan, the payment will come out of the general fund, and the General Government budget will still have the approximately \$60,000 which would be intended to go back to the general fund. Ed questioned whether the Board of Selectmen (BoS) has the authority to break the Capital budget out; Al responded that he was still waiting to hear from town counsel on the subject. Ed thought that it might be harder to pass three budgets than to pass two. Penny asked how it would be determined what in a budget should be changed if a budget doesn't pass; Al responded that it's the same problem any time a budget is defeated and that townspeople should voice their concerns openly at town meeting.

Jeff recognized Kathy Donahue who made the point that some of the Capital budget items are already committed to, such as the town garage loan and other items that have already approved, and thought the breakout of the Capital budget would add clarity as long as it was adequately explained.

- Tax Collector:  
The monthly Tax Collector's reports had been distributed previously to members via email. A tax sale update was also supplied. There were no questions.
- Treasurer:
  - Transfers  
Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez presented a number of transfer requests.  
**Penny moved and Nick seconded to approve the transfer of:**  
**\$3.78 from # 6001-05 Tax collector Refund Taxes to #6001-04 Tax Collector Mileage;**  
**\$39.08 from # 6009-03 Election Training to # 6009-06 Election HAVA Expenses;**  
**\$380.24 from # 6013-02 Transfer Station Telephone to #6013-04 Town Hall Oil;**  
**\$916.48 from #6013-03 Town Hall Electric # 6013-04 Town Hall Oil;**  
**\$347.18 from # 6013-08 Town Garage Oil to # 6013-13 Fire Dept. Oil;**  
**\$150.00 from # 6013-08 Town Garage Oil to #6013-15 Community Center Cleaning;**  
**\$535.32 from 6300-00 Sanitation -Transfer Station to 6300-05 Transfer Station Lease;**  
**motion passed unanimously.**
  - Ellen followed up on the discussion of the last meeting concerning interest rates; the limit on the amount that can accrue interest has been increased from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000, which will net the town .25% instead of .10% interest on all town funds. The trust account funds are being invested at least 1.75% and possibly more at a better rate, since they will be put into such a long-term CD. Ellen is attempting to get rid of the comment in the audit report about entity-wide controls; she along with the Town Clerk and Tax Collector came up with a compliance checklist for all the town offices which she distributed; following the checklist would allow an outside review of treasurer, tax collector, and assessor's offices; she is hoping for approval of the procedure, and she thinks the Building Department should also have a checklist because that department also handles money. It has not been determined who would do the review. After approval, the auditor would have to get involved in order to respond to the State Office of Policy & Management (OPM). The response has already been sent to OPM concerning this year's audit report, so this will have to defer to the next fiscal year. Ellen also informed the BoF that she has updated her procedure manual which she plans to do yearly.
  - The monthly Treasurer's reports had been distributed previously to members via email. There were no other questions.
- Board of Education (BoE):  
The monthly Board of Education reports had been distributed previously to members via email. There were no questions on the reports.
- Board of Finance (BoF) Committees
  - HR Committee: Al noted that he still waiting for signoff from some departments on the language in the job descriptions. Penny reported that three more job descriptions have been put into the standard format, and suggested that another member be appointed to the HR Committee to replace Margaret Haraghey who is no longer on the BoF.
- Other: None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Old Business:**

- 2012-13 Annual Report:

The Annual Report was distributed and is complete, except for a submission from the BoF itself; the information in the first several pages was checked with the Town Clerk for accuracy, and reports had been obtained from all entities. Jeff will forward a rough draft of the BoF submission.

**Dan moved and Nick seconded to table until the next meeting approval of the 2012-13 Annual Report; motion passed unanimously.**

- BoF website page review:

The Administrative Assistant cannot upload the photo because of a software error; no photos can be loaded to any town department or board/commission webpage. There were no other comments on the webpage.

- 2014-15 budget:

Penny urged the BoS to apply the 3% cost-of-living increase (COLA) to every position, even those receiving adjustments to their salaries, in order to keep everything legal.

Rheo asked Ellen if the revenue information in the budget document was complete; she responded that according to a memo from the CT Council of Municipalities (CCM), the State revenue will be the same as this year. It is a neutral budget, no funds taken from the reserve, and is balanced by property taxes and reflects a 30% increase in the mil rate, from 24.8 to 32.32 mils. Rheo asked how much of the increase is attributable to the revaluation; that figure had not been calculated.

Nick asked if the town can take a 5.98% increase in the General Government budget and a 2.1% increase in education. Al responded that the BoS will need to advocate for and justify its budget at town meeting. Many of the same items in this budget were in last year's (contingency, salary increases, open space) and were adjusted out when the BoF lowered the bottom line. Nick said he is not optimistic that the town will approve the General Government budget with its increase.

Rheo asked how much a mil equals in the proposed overall budget; the response was one mil would equal about \$125,000. The overall increase was calculated to be a little over a mil and a half.

Jeff asked if the BoF is comfortable sending the General Government budget to the public.

Al asked if there were any questions on the budget; Nick asked if we could reduce the road paving line in the proposed budget since more funds came in this year than anticipated; Al responded that he was looking to increase it via STEAP grant funds for roads because the town is so far behind in infrastructure.

Rheo has looked at the budget and can't find any excess, any increases of 10% or more are on small dollar amount lines; he thinks that the salary increases are necessary in order to retain good people.

Selectman Bob Grindle pointed out that there is really only a 1.5% increase if the Capital and insurance increases are removed. Al justified the Capital increases by saying that many of the Capital accounts were cut down last year, but eventually there will be a need to replace equipment.

Penny noted that the Capital budget might get shot down because of the increase, that it would be an easy target if a zero increase were desired.

Nick noted that total administration is up over 7%; Al noted that most of that increase is in health insurance and the salary increases and adjustments. Nick then noted that the rest is the significant increase in the registrars' line.

Jeff asked about how P&Z legal and engineering fees are used; Rheo responded that last year it was stated that it was for inspections.

Rheo asked if the BoF wants to accept the budget or reject it and ask for revisions.

**Dan moved and Penny seconded to accept the General Government budget as presented, a total of \$1,800,436; motion passed unanimously.**

HES BoE Chair John Burnham noted that the BoF had asked questions and Supt. Graseck had responded in writing, and asked if any further clarifications were needed.

Rheo asked if hiring custodial staff instead of contracting with ServiceMaster would save money over the life of the contract; Supt. Graseck responded that after research conducted two years prior, he determined that the start-up costs would be significant because of the need for purchase of equipment and the cost of health insurance. Rheo suggested hiring part-time staff, avoiding the health insurance cost.

Rheo asked about using the lawn maintenance service used by the town to maintain the school property. Al responded that an adjustment would need to be made to the budget, but that it could be done, in fact he currently has two bids for mowing service. Nick asked if the town could administer the process and wondered if there would be savings; Supt. Graseck said that Al would need to determine the cost of taking over the grounds maintenance, and that he would see what is included in the current contract that could be subtracted if grounds maintenance were eliminated.

Rheo asked if the RD11 transportation could be moved to the RD11 budget or broken out into a separate line item from that for just HES; HES BoE Chair Burnham noted that the two parts of the transportation were not bid separately and the costs for each would have to be estimated; Supt. Graseck said that breaking it out would not affect the bottom line of the budget. Jeff suggested that the cost be determined per pupil; Al said the costs would probably be determined by route and mileage.

Rheo suggested that if there has been concern about the perception that transportation is inflated that breaking out the costs would be a way to show that it's not.

Jeff recognized members of the audience.

Kathy Donahue noted that most Regional Districts carry their own transportation; if RD11 carried the contract, the state reimbursement to the towns would be increased, and she doesn't understand why this hasn't been done in the past. Supt. Graseck suggested that breaking out the transportation contract into two might actually result in a higher rate from the bus contractor.

Rheo asked about how HES test scores stack up. Supt. Graseck replied that HES does quite well except in one case (grade 3 only). He suggested that comparing a class of 13 to a class of 1,500 (as in Bridgeport) is not fair. Rheo asked about looking at the twenty towns closest in size to Hampton and seeing how we compare.

Principal Elise Guari made a number of points. She said that HES is competitive with other towns but it's in the transition process. She talked about the obsolescence of CMTs and the new Common Core and the SBAC assessment test. She stated that after HES CMT scores are translated to School Performance Index (SPI), HES scores above both Chaplin and Scotland, and former HES students are competitive at Parish Hill Middle/High School with a majority on the honor roll. She reported that regular ongoing assessments have been implemented, and there is an online Common Core aligned meeting on every child every four weeks.

Rheo said that administrators should defend their budget at the town meeting. He said when people look at the budget, and with lower population, small class sizes, high relative per-pupil costs, they ask why the results at the school aren't the same as New Canaan.

Principal Guari stated that another factor is that students enter the school at various levels with various family circumstances and needs, we are not in a war zone but have students with low income and circumstances around that. Rheo responded that all towns have the same issues and since HES numbers are smaller it should have better results.

Principal Guari responded that she can't change human circumstances for students in ten months when they are at home, can't change things if she does not have a Guidance Counselor in every day to take care of issues and emergencies. Her staff is wearing many different hats. Rheo said that the administration should speak up more at the town meeting this year.

HES BoE member Maryellen Donnelly said the BoE and administration had no opportunity to present the budget last year; Rheo pointed out the chance to do so with members of both the BoF and BoE at the head of the table at the town meeting.

Supt. Graseck noted that he spent a long time on the answers to the BoF's eleven questions in a tight window; he said the school's scores are truly fine and are competitive; the town-by-town analysis would take longer, but the school is doing great.

Kathy Donahue disagreed with the statement "doing great," stating that the school did not meet its SPI target, while she thought Chaplin and Scotland met theirs; she suggested that doing better than Chaplin and Scotland does not equate to "doing great."

Penny asked if the administrators have discussed combining classes and eliminating a certified teacher. HES BoE Chair Burnham objected to the notion that it has not been discussed or considered, and suggested that she attend a BoE meeting.

Principal Guari spoke about the problems with combining classes of varying sizes, and expanding curriculum to cover two grades, how to engage flexible grouping, and how to plan with a variable number of students in a class. She said teaching by content area has been discussed, but it has its drawbacks and may hold us back in long run. She said decisions are dependent upon student need and development, that Common Core is a small group model, breaking classes into groups based upon assessment. She sees advantages and disadvantages to the middle school model in an elementary school, but combining classes is not as simple as it sounds.

Penny does not see any padding in the budget, and that it was HES BoE Chair Burnham who last month made comments that suggested to her the school may have to close because of the cost. HES BoE Chair Burnham refuted ever saying that the school would need to close. She said that in light of what he had suggested as the future uncertainty of the school, she wondered if the BoE had looked at reducing the staff. She said that everything the BoE has done seems to be "dancing around" the certified teacher position area. She noted that although she does not attend BoE meetings, she reads the minutes and has seen no mention in the BoE minutes to indicate that it was ever discussed.

Supt. Graseck stated that a mixed-age class takes planning, it's not impossible to do, but requires staff training, as it must be assured that nothing is missed in terms of the Common Core curriculum. The timing of it is key, there is a need to get parents on board to support it which they might opt for as a choice but not a mandate; he is not opposed to considering a mixed-age class but questions trying to do it dramatically as a budget issue, there might be a firestorm of response. Supt. Graseck went on to mention that when Principal Guari was hired, she stated she wanted to look at the school in a different light and consider all different configurations, and he would support that kind of thinking but it doesn't happen overnight. Ed suggested that eliminating a certified staff would probably drop a staff member at a lower pay rate and might not realize the savings anticipated. He also mentioned that retirement incentives, although they have not been effective in the past, would appeal to the staff members nearing retirement.

Supt. Graseck stated that retirement incentives can work but best if several staff members leave at the same time, which also leaves a gap at the school in terms of experience.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola called a point of order on a seated BoF member advocating for retirement incentives which can impact his wife as a staff member of retirement age at the school, she thought it constituted a conflict of interest, and thought that he had stated in the past that he would refrain from discussion when the subject had an impact on his wife's position; there was no ruling.

Kathy Donahue noted that there is a teacher at the school with experience in multi-age classrooms. She also suggested combining the specials which would not reduce the number of hours of specials the students receive. She thinks there needs some flexibility in the scheduling. She has attended BoE meetings regularly and noted the discussions about multi-age classes were brought up by audience members and one BoE member who had trouble getting the information she was looking for, and she did not hear any in-depth discussion at the meeting. John Gorman suggested that there's enough creativity within the school that if there were a hypothetical emergency scenario such as a pandemic and staff were missing, something would be figured out so kids could come to school and still get an education. He suggested that by looking at the problem from a different perspective, the administration might find ways to develop greater efficiency. He suggested interns and student teachers may help resolve the problem.

Supt. Graseck stated that student teacher has a teacher overseeing.

John Gorman said that was his point, that a combined class could have a teacher and a student teacher, therefore two adults in the class with the student teacher also being supervised. He suggested that before deciding that a possible solution won't work, it should be seen if it can work.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola said from her experience as a teacher of three grades in the same classroom, that inner city schools have a reading teacher for 200 students as opposed to at HES where there is a reading teacher for 100 students. She offered suggestions to the previously stated problems of mixed-age classes, the reading teacher could be scheduled in the combined class when reading is taught, the math instructor when math is taught; when specials are offered, the class can be separated where one grade level can go to the special, the other grade level can have individual needs addressed. She said that with the number of special periods currently scheduled, there would be at least six periods each week where the class could be separated to address the different subject areas, and even the period the guidance counselor is scheduled could be used for this purpose.

Rheo suggested that these discussions were more the purview of the BoE than the BoF. He calculated that, as it stands, the average household would be looking at a \$300 increase if the HES budget is now approved. Ellen had not a chance to perform the calculations. He suggested dividing the current budget by the new grand list to get the equivalent mil rate showing the impact of revaluation alone, and then the remainder of the mil increase would be the impact of the increase in the proposed budgets. Ellen also stated that revaluation complicates the impact to each household, since some property values went up while others went down. Ellen pointed out that the budget as presented does not currently use any general funds to balance it. Rheo suggested that it would difficult to explain to taxpayers why the mil rate has to go up just to cover the revaluation, and having the data on impact of revaluation would be crucial. Rheo then asked how much would have to be taken from the reserves to cover a number of different reductions in the total mil rate, should the budgets be defeated at referendum. He thought it would be necessary to look at those scenarios along with the question of the school roof payoff,



in order to see the big picture in regards to how much impact there might be on the reserves overall, rather than looking at each item individually where the big picture might be missed. It was decided that Ellen would come to the next meeting with that information.

HES BoE member Maryellen Donnelly stated that the BoE chooses to take the state recommendations in specials rather than the average, and HES is well within the recommended range, and suggested that the other towns and schools are not giving the students what is recommended. She also mentioned her son was in a multi-age class two years, based upon finances, but there was a choice for parents. When a decision was made to go totally multi-age, there was an uproar with the parents and the decision had to be rescinded.

Nick said that the taxpayers will ultimately decide whether these budgets pass; he said any action by BoF doesn't really matter and he suggested that this budget be put before the taxpayers as is. He is skeptical about whether either budget will pass. He stated that there is a well-paid registrars' office that conducts lots of referendums for the town, let the voters decide. **Nick moved and Ed seconded to approve the Hampton Elementary School Board of Education budget as presented, a total of \$2,257,756; motion passed unanimously.**

Al noted that if the question on the school roof payoff passes, the payment on the school roof loan will come out of the general budget as presented, because it will be paid out of the general fund. There was general discussion about the complexity of this. Because the budget will be presented at the \$60,000 higher level along with the payoff question, it is the intent that the amount will revert back to the general fund if the question passes.

There was discussion of when the next meeting would be. It was decided to meet next week on 4/15 to get the RD11 budget impact to Hampton which is being decided at the RD11 meeting this same night.

Al said that the BoS would move forward with setting a public hearing date.

**New Business:** None.

**Citizen Comments:**

Kathy Donahue questioned the appropriateness of a BoF member voting on the HES budget when it impacts his wife's employment, since her hours are being restored in this budget, and asked about the Board's bylaws. Ed responded that he was told by some people that voting on something related to a general budget or school policy was allowed, but he should recuse himself from any decision which would have a specific impact on his wife's employment; he said that he has recused himself in the past and will do so in the future. Kathy Donahue reiterated that the budget did have an impact on Ed's wife because there is an increase in hours from the current approved budget to the proposed budget; she made a Freedom of Information request for the Board's bylaws. The Recording Clerk volunteered to satisfy the FOI request.

Maryellen Donnelly asked if the submissions to the annual report were put in as submitted before publication, wondered if she needed to read her submission in the draft report to assure that it was the same as was submitted, and addressed her question to the Recording Clerk; the Recording Clerk responded that she only corrected minor typographical errors as she sees them.

Mark Becker criticized the conduct of the meeting, saying there's meeting etiquette that should be followed. He suggested that citizens were completely contradicting school officials during discussion and objected to it, he felt they should have held their comments until audience for citizens to speak as he specifically did. He said that it's not fair for citizens to rebut or claim things he doesn't agree with. He suggested that when he wants financial advice, he goes to a banker, when he is sick, he goes to a doctor, and when he wants educational information, he asks a school administrator, not just random

citizens in the town. He characterized their comments as unfair, unprofessional, and out of turn, and disrespectful to the school administrators. He felt that the professionals who are entrusted with the well-being of the students are beaten down. He said he should have said this while Kathy and Dayna were still present. Jeff stated that he would make a note of it.

**Suggestions for Agenda of next meeting:**

- 2014-15 budget update with RD11 info
- Dairy abatement consideration
- Annual Report approval
- Approval of 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25 minutes after review/correction.

**Set the Date, Time and Place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and the next regular monthly meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathi Newcombe,  
BoF Recording Clerk