

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**Finance Committee**  
**Proctor School Teacher's Lounge**  
**March 28, 2016**

Board of Selectmen members present were Chairman Laura Powers, Selectmen Martha Morrison, Boyd Jackson, Eldon Goodhue and Steve Lais. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Kellie Hebert and Board Executive Assistant Susan Sordello were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were members of the Finance Committee, the Topsfield Elementary School Committee and residents Dick Gandt and Jeanine Cunniff.

At 7:30PM Chairman Laura Powers called the meeting to order. Finance Committee Chair, Karen Dow announced that a representative from the Elementary School Committee was present to explain the proposal for a Proposition 2 ½ override. School Committee member Gordon Spater went to on to explain that the committee tried to be at the guidelines laid out by the Finance Committee but could not do so and continue to provide level services. The budget was still \$173,000.00 over which impacted class sizes in grades 1, 2 and 6. School Committee member, Greg Lindsay added that there was a loss of revenue from Special Education tuition and Assistant Superintendent, Steve Greenberg added that salaries, Special Education costs and loss of Special Education income are the 3 largest factors in the School Committee's request for an override. Board of Selectman Chairperson, Laura Powers asked if the Finance Committee felt that this was the only way to resolve the issue. Selectman Lais and Goodhue both asked why the School Committee was coming to this solution so late in the game and if there were any alternatives. Many members agreed that none are in favor of an override but that the schools are an asset to the Town. Selectman Morrison questioned the historical record of school overrides. Town Administrator Hebert confirmed that there were the following overrides: \$199,500. (2014), \$191,000. (2012), \$130,000. (2010) and \$182,000. (2007). Chairman Powers asked for Finance Committee guidance to determine a recommended amount; after discussion the amount was determined to be \$140,000.00. Selectman Morrison made a motion to support the \$140,000.00 override to benefit the Topsfield Elementary Schools, seconded by Selectman Lais; so voted 5-0.

At 8:37PM, Selectman Goodhue made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Lais seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sordello, Secretary

Minutes – 03.28.16

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Selectmen's Office

Per the Open Meeting Law, the documents that were either distributed to the BOS before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting were:

1. Agenda

*Approved as written at the April 25 , 2016 Board of Selectmen's meeting.*

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.