

**Town of Otis
Special Town Meeting
July 8, 2008
Minutes**

In attendance:

Selectmen: Clayton Chaffee Chairperson, Donald Hawley, Andrew Pyenson

Moderator: Andrew Pyenson

Town Administrator: Chris Morris

Selectmen's Secretary: Emily Piacquadio

Town Counsel: Jeremia Pollard

Town Clerk: Lyn Minery

Board of Registrars: Majorie Middleton, Margaret Loring

Total registered voters in Otis: 1045

Total Voters who attended: 64

The moderator called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The moderator confirmed with the town clerk that there was the required quorum of 15 registered voters in attendance.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,768,526.00 or any other sum as the apportioned share for the Farmington River Regional School District, provided that \$148,993.00 of said amount shall be subject to a Proposition 2 ½ override.

A motion was made to accept Article 1 as read

The motion was seconded.

Discussion: A voter was concerned as to why we voted this down once, and why it had to be voted on again. Selectmen, Clayton Chaffee and Town Administrator, Chris Morris explained the legal process.

Andrew Pyenson said how this is the first time in many years that the town has asked for a proposition 2 ½ override. If they did not ask for one this year then they would have to ask for one next year.

The selectmen also explained how this special town meeting is only for the school because the figures have decreased. The override for the school must pass at this meeting and the special election next week.

What is the tax increase for the override? Chris Morris said it is about 9% or .75 cents per thousand if everything was to pass.

If the state did set the budget would it go up or down? One of the school committee members said in the majority of cases, the budget usually goes up.

What are the options of getting the money if everything fails? Where does the money come from? The selectmen said it would have to come from other town accounts such as stabilization.

A voter expressed how voting on the override is an investment in our students future. The moderator asked if there was any more discussion.

Article 2 passed, 5 opposed.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town of Otis will vote to raise and appropriate \$149,745.00 or any other sum for Fiscal Year 2009 payment of the School Bond issue, provided that \$36,795.00 of said amount shall be subject to a Proposition 2½ override.

A motion was made to accept Article 2 as read.

The motion was seconded.

Article 2 passed, 5 opposed.

Howard Levin spoke on behalf of the smart growth committee and explained what the committee does and asked for volunteers.

Bill Dyer gave a brief overview of what the recreation center does and the programs they offer.

Ann Cooper explained what the money was being used for the Library's portion of the override vote. She said it would be for a digitized catalog system.

Laurie Nikituk thanked the public for their support of the school budget. She also explained the academic achievements the students are making.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Minery
Town Clerk