

**TOWN OF BOZRAH
TOWN HALL
1 RIVER ROAD
BOZRAH, CONNECTICUT 06334**

The **Bozrah Board of Selectmen** held a **SPECIAL MEETING** on **Wednesday June 5, 2019 at 2:00 P.M.** in the Meeting Room of the Bozrah Town Hall at 1 River Road, Bozrah, Connecticut.

MINUTES

- 1) **Call to order/attendance:** Meeting called to order at 2 PM with the full Board of Selectmen in attendance. Public: B. Macfadyen, R. Barber, L. Skinner, J. Tarasevich (FD), Attorney Bruce Chudwick

- 2) **Public comment(s):** B. MacFadyen stated that a referendum would cost about \$700 to administrate, and, she supports the request by Chief Sholes to utilize ambulance money on a loan basis. R. Barber supports referendum and that an ordinance should be adopted that all expenses over \$100,000 should automatically go to referendum.

- 3) **Set Town Meeting or Referendum date and times regarding FY 19-20 Budget:** First Selectman Pianka started the conversation that referenda give a wider time available to vote, especially for elderly people or those who work. Selectman Ballinger commented that if it is important then they will come out to vote. That mere numbers of voters versus "informed" voters is of concern. Selectman Zorn offered that he would like to remain with the Town Meeting format.

Town Meeting set for Thursday June 13, 2019 at FMS at 7 PM. Notice to be posted.

MOTION: Ballinger/**SECONDED:** Zorn- **PASSED-UNANIMOUS**

- 4) **Request from BVFD Chief Sholes for short term use of Ambulance Replacement funds for the purchase of a 2000 Ford F550 Mini-Pumper:**

Discussion: that Board of Selectmen and Board of Chiefs (FD) must approve this use. The money is proposed to come out of the FD Ambulance Replacement Fund. Deputy Chief Tarasevich explained that it would be paid back over 7 years with bi-annual installments of \$2500. The mini-pumper, being purchased from FD operational funds, would become the property of the FD and not the Town. This would replenish the account in ample time for an ambulance replacement. Selectman Zorn questioned the propriety of the fund usage and the age of the vehicle being purchased.

MOTION: Ballinger/**SECONDED:** Pianka--- to allow the use of this fund money for this purpose. That the loan be non-interest. That the amount loaned is \$35,000, paid back bi-annually at \$2500 per installment. The First Selectman will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with the Fire Department Chief with the loan arrangement details. **VOTE:** Pianka, Ballinger-YES Zorn-NO

MOTION: PASSED

- 5) **Executive Session: To discuss attorney-client privileged communications-legal advice concerning**
- 1) The Town's contract with Bozrah Senior Living, LLC and
 - 2) The draft Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Norwich Sewer Authority (AKA Norwich Public Utilities):

MOTION: Ballinger/**SECONDED:** Zorn to enter into Executive Session at 2:23 P.M.
PASSED-UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Zorn/**SECONDED:** Ballinger to exit Executive Session at 3:45 P.M.
PASSED-UNANIMOUS

No votes were taken during executive session

- 6) **Public comment(s):** Evelyn Brown submitted the attached email regarding Town Meeting vs. Referendum **EXHIBIT: BOS-REG 06/05/19 "A"** (One Page)
- 7) **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Glenn S. Pianka
First Selectman

Glenn Pianka

From: fms78@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 10:17 PM
To: Glenn Pianka; ballinger225@sbcglobal.net; carl_l_zorn@sbcglobal.net
Subject: referendum vote

Dear Selectmen,

I am unable to attend the meeting you are holding at 10AM next week but I would like to enter this opinion regarding the upcoming budget town meeting. Please share this during the public comment period of your meeting.

The First Selectman's comments in the TWIB this week stated that a proposal would be put forward to have the budgets move to referendum. I disagree with the referendum format for this particular vote for the following reasons:

- 1.
2. The time table is shorter than in many years.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Based on the BOF meeting info, it is likely that there will be no tax increase this year and the budget should pass easily at a town meeting.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Referendum votes cost extra money.
- 9.
- 10.
11. I feel voters should be informed voters. Town meetings give information and opportunities for discussion on the proposals. When all the boards that we elect work on these documents for months and they propose what they feel is best for the town, informed voters should support that. Pulling in higher numbers as a reason for a referendum when those higher numbers have not been to any of the information sessions does not foster informed votes.
- 12.
- 13.
14. The reasons for referendum vote outcomes are notoriously difficult to interpret even when there are questions attached to the vote. They are often close to evenly split and many voters do not even bother to respond to the questions, so how to move forward from a negative referendum vote is often lengthy and uncertain. Bozrah has had this situation occur numerous times in the instances when the vote outcome has turned down the proposals.
- 15.

I think the CONS associated with a referendum vote on this budget heavily outweigh the PROS.
Thank you for taking the time to consider this opinion.

Sincerely,
Ev Brown
145 Fitchville Rd.