

**Board of Finance
Marlborough Elementary School
Special Meeting
October 26, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

Chairman Knowlton called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present and seated were regular members Doug Knowlton, Cliff Denniss, Ken Hjulstrom, Susan Leser, Erik Young and Dieter Zimmer. Also present was alternate Midge Denno.

Potential Purchase of 17 East Lake Drive

Chairman Knowlton had previously emailed the purchase agreement to the Board which gives the town exclusive right to purchase the property if the BOF sends this to a public hearing and the voters approve it at a town meeting. First Selectman Traversa said that the homeowner approached the town about purchasing his property which is adjacent to Blish Park. The purchase price is \$200,000 and the closing would be held by December 31st. Ms. Traversa said the town could use the property in the future for a community/recreational center. Most likely, the house would be demolished in the future. For now, the town could purchase the house, secure and drain the pipes then board it up, and let the town decide what to do with the property in the future. According to the deed for Blish Park, no enclosed structures can be built on the property, which makes this adjacent property a good purchase. Some concerns board members had were funding sources, the other associated costs with the purchase, the purchase price, the purchase agreement, not having seen the inside, or inspection done yet. Ms. Traversa said that if the Board wanted to move forward to a public hearing to let the residents decide whether or not to purchase this, the inspections would be done by then. Ms. Traversa said that this would be considered a want, and not a need, but since the town was approached by the homeowner, it would be nice to have a piece of property the town could build on in the future that is adjacent to the park.

Funding Sources

The First Selectman met with the BOF Chairman, Peter Hughes, and the Assistant Treasurer to see what appropriated funds could be used to purchase this property. The following is what they have suggested:

\$ 50,000 Open Space

\$ 22,000 Land Acquisition

\$ 50,000 Undesignated Capital Reserve from CNR

\$ 78,000 Undesignated Fund Balance

\$200,000 Total

MOTION: Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Zimmer, to hold a public hearing on November 9, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the school library, to discuss the purchase of 17 East Lake Road at a price of \$200,000 with the funding coming from the above appropriated stated sources.

DISCUSSION: There is no justification for the value of the land, poorly written agreement, concerns about ground contamination, asbestos or lead inside the home. All these things would have to be made transparent to the public at the hearing so they would know what they are voting on at the town meeting. The house could be demolished or possibly the fire department could use it as an exercise. The land appraisal is over \$200,000.

VOTE: All voted in favor, except for Ken Hjulstrom, who abstained.

Adjournment

Ms. Leser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Young, to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Rihm
Board Clerk