

**Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2016**

Present: Susan Clark, Ron Krauth, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard, Barb Whitchurch, Greg Whitchurch

1. Minutes of April 4, 2016 Meeting

Susan had a few corrections to the minutes of the April 4th meeting of the Town Meeting Solutions Committee (TMSC) and a list of the outreach activities conducted to promote Remote Town Meeting Participation in 2016. Greg moved approval of the minutes, with Susan's changes, with a second from Janette. The revised minutes were approved.

2. Use of Microphones at Town Meeting

There were some issues with the operation of microphones at Town Meeting this year that may have been due to the equipment or operator error or both. Janette discussed these possibilities with Bennett Shapiro. She did some research on the cost to purchase new equipment and one option for a new receiver and microphone would be around \$600. Other options discussed were to check on what Rumney School may have for microphones and to check with Bennett on the type of batteries used in the current microphones and make sure extra batteries are available at Town Meeting so they can be changed out if needed.

3. Budget Charts

Susan spoke to Sarah Merriman about the budget charts that have been prepared as a handout at Town Meeting with regard to errors with the charts the past two years. Sarah thinks the charts are useful. TMSC members were interested in how we might assist in ensuring the information in the charts is correct. Having a TMSC member attend the January meeting of the Budget Committee seems like a good option to be able to have input into the preparation of the charts. Dave will check with the Budget Committee.

Greg suggested the examples of property values use to illustrate the tax impact of each article could be adjusted by changing the current \$200,000 appraised property value to \$250,000 as this figure, included with the \$100,000 and \$150,000 values would be more useful to extrapolate to various higher property values.

4. Act 46

The U32 District Act 46 study committee is continuing to meet and work on potential changes to the way schools are organized in the district. If they do decide to propose a change the proposal will be available for review through public meetings in the fall of 2016.

5. TMSC Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be scheduled in October, probably Monday, October 3rd.

Minutes recorded by Dave Shepard