

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 8, 2010

Present: Marie Clarner (1), Walter St. Lawrence (2), Matthew Trowbridge (2), Catherine Shuman (3), Shelley Ross (5), Jan Meierdericks (6), Robert Nerz (7), Joseph Bagarella (8), Charles Beale (9), Tom Richards (9)

Meeting called to order at 7:15 By J. Meierdericks.
Minutes of January 11 accepted as amended.

Town Meeting: Discussion held on whether town meeting should be held 4 times per year. Members agreed that 4 meetings could be profitable as departments would have more time to think through article. All agreed that the by-law should not be changed. R. Nerz made motion that we add September and February meetings without change to the Town Meeting By-Law.

Pre-Town Meeting: M. Clarner suggested talking with Joanne Cathcart as she would be more familiar with previous pre-town meetings. Members of RTM would be asked to submit questions for department heads by email. All members of RTM should be notified by email and program would be televised and run several times before Town Meeting. Department heads will be invited to attend and defend their articles. Possibly the meeting would be held in the Middle School Library if it appears there will be a crowd and would be one week before Town Meeting. At the next meeting a time line will be set for articles and ads re. Pre-Town Meeting. R. Nerz will invite Peter Gay to the next meeting to discuss format. It is possible an October pre-town meeting will be held but that was carried over for a later discussion.

New Business: M. Clarner presented an objection to the current seating at town meeting and the location of microphones. She felt town personnel should be back on the stage and the configuration of tables should be changed. Pros and cons of current arrangement and change were discussed. Time saving and engagement of the entire body were discussed. M. Clarner and J. Meierdericks will look at table arrangement for next meeting and will also look into the price of wireless mikes.

W. St. Lawrence has been polling his precinct members on the town budget and would like others to do the same. The question arose as to whether raises should be given when layoffs could occur. Suggested 2% increase rather than 2 1/2%. Other members felt budget, raises and taxes are issues and that we should raise whatever we can. Job maintenance should take priority over raises.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM. Next meeting will be March 15.