

Preston Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2022
Preston Plains Middle School Cafeteria

Call to Order - John Moulson called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Members

Alternates

John Moulson - Chairman

Andrew Sawyer - seated

Robert Congdon - Vice Chairman

Kayla Thompson - Clerk

Stacey Becker

Denise Beale

Zachary Maurice

Also Present

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier - First Selectwoman

Jerry Grabarek - Selectman

Cindy Varricchio - Finance Director

Sean Nugent - Board Education Chairman

Andy Depta

2. Public Comment - None

3. Correspondence

➤ June 17, 2022 - Nick Vigilante: email - regarding Board's vacancy

➤ June 20, 2022 -Jill Keith: email - concerning the budget process that occurred this year

4. Board of Finance Vacancy

Bob Congdon motioned to nominate Andrew Sawyer to fill the Board of Finance vacancy.

Andrew Sawyer seconded the motion.

Zach Maurice motioned to nominate Kayla Thompson to fill the Board of Finance vacancy.

Stacey Becker seconded the motion.

With no further nominations a vote was taken, Bob Congdon, Andrew Sawyer, and Denise Beale voted for Andrew Sawyer; while John Moulson, Stacey Becker, and Zach Maurice voted for Kayla Thompson. Ending in a tie.

Bob Congdon stated that the loss of a Republican party member and with two viable candidates at the ready he felt that the vacancy should be filled with a Republican to keep the Board politically balanced, therefore Andrew Sawyer should fill the vacancy.

John Moulson stated that Kayla Thompson, although she is an alternate she is also the clerk, which is the busiest job on the Board and felt that she should fill the vacancy.

At this point Andrew Sawyer withdrew his vote and it was determined that Kayla Thompson would fill the Board's vacancy.

5. 2022-2023 Budget

a. Set Mil Rate

Andrew Sawyer motioned to set the mil rate at 27.99. Zach Maurice seconded the motion.

Stacey Becker suggested that an additional \$50,000 be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance to offset the budget further to keep it just below 1 full mil increase. She stated with the current inflation and price increases that taxpayers would appreciate that. Andrew Sawyer stated, looking at the past 8 year history of the Undesignated Fund use, that the increase being suggested isn't that aggressive and therefore should be done.

Stacey Becker amended the original motion to set the mil rate at 27.88. Andrew Sawyer seconded the motion. John Moulson, Stacey Becker, Denise Beale, Zach Maurice, and Andrew Sawyer voted in favor and Bob Congdon opposed the motion. The motion carried 5 to 1.

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Andrew Sawyer motioned to use \$900,000 of the Undesignated Fund Balance to offset the budget. Stacey Becker seconded the motion. John Moulson, Stacey Becker, Denise Beale, Zach Maurice, and Andrew Sawyer voted in favor and Bob Congdon opposed the motion. The motion carried 5 to 1.

b. Budget Discussion

Board members requested the results of the Referendum. They were told the Board of Education Budget received 279 voted yes and 246 no; and the Town Budget received 295 voted yes and 230 no. There are still absentee ballots to count, but there aren't enough to change the outcome of the Budget passing.

6. Public Comment - None

7. Adjournment

Andrew Sawyer motioned to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. Zach Maurice seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary