

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE BOARDS OF SELECTMEN OF THE
TOWNS OF DURHAM AND MIDDLEFIELD AND THE REGIONAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT #13 BUILDING COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 6, 2005; 6:00 P.M.; Strong School Library

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board of Education Chairman Chet Raczka.

Present: Durham Board of Selectmen – Maryann Boord, First Selectwoman, Ernie Judson, Selectman, Renee Primus, Selectwoman
Middlefield Board of Selectmen – Charles Augur, First Selectman, Peter Brown, Selectman, Pat Bandzes, Selectwoman
Regional District #13 – Susan Viccaro, Superintendent; Rob Gourley, Assistant Superintendent; Chet Raczka, Chairman of the Board of Education; Building Committee members – Gene Brown, Tom Hennick, Norman Hicks, Dr. Joe Ochterski, Mary Jane Parsons.

R. Gourley distributed the attached responses to questions raised at the previous meeting. M. Boord showed maps provided her by Geoff Colegrove, Town Planner, which showed approximately half of the 6.08 acres are wetlands.

M. Boord and C. Raczka had attended the Durham Planning and Zoning Commission meeting the previous night. The Commission voted that housing school buses was a permitted use of the property under its Design Development regulations. E. Judson recommended that considering the limited useable area on the property, perhaps Regional District #13 should pursue the purchase without the Town of Durham's participation. Consensus was that all agreed.

M. Boord shared information provided by Martin French, Tax Collector, that the taxes on this lot are presently \$4,195.50. Two other parcels on the same road, somewhat less in acreage, with buildings are presently taxed at \$12,832.16 and \$12,942.56. E. Judson made the observation that the long term estimated cost savings to the Town of Durham of \$65,000 outweighed the loss of approximately \$13,000 in tax dollars.

C. Raczka asked if the School District did purchase the property, would the Towns assist in site improvements. The Middlefield Board of Selectmen had previously discussed this possibility and said they would only consider participation if the Town of Durham did not partner in the project. C. Augur indicated he would have to speak with his Public Works Department before making a decision. M. Boord has spoken with Kurt Bober, Road Foreman, and the Town of Durham would participate in an effort to reduce site improvement costs.

R. Primus is not confident that this is the right piece of property to house Regional District #13 buses with an asking price of \$179,900 and only half of the parcel useable. All agreed that the location of this parcel meets the desires and requirements of the School District. It is on the west side of town and not close to any residential areas. Admittedly, the topography of the parcels poses some challenges. Phil Johnson of DATTCO indicated a willingness to participate in determining if the site is feasible for the proposed use. C. Raczka stated that the School District will continue to study and discuss the matter with appropriate parties.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Boord
First Selectwoman