

REVISED: APRIL 26, 2007

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2007
7 P.M.
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. with the following members present: E. Traverso, H. O'Flynn, B. Hopping, and D. Ross. Also present was Superintendent of Schools Richard Korb.

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS - None.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

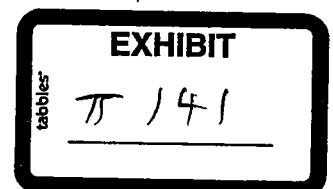
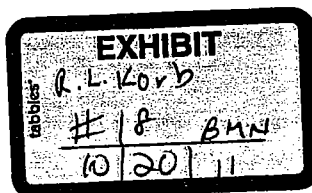
A. FEOFFEEES TRUST DISCUSSION

Discussion was begun with Mr. Loeb's review of the Trust over the years and the current situation with unsigned leases on Little Neck and pending lawsuits. As a result, the flow of money to the School Committee to meet its budget hasn't happened yet. While some of the troubling language in previous tries at revision has been eliminated, Mr. Loeb sees the biggest remaining issue is governance of the Trust. Currently, Mr. Foley, Mr. Rauscher, Mr. McNally, and Mrs. Kilcoyne (all members of the Board of Selectmen) are members of the Feoffees. While the consensus of the group was to sacrifice "municipal governance" of the Trust, Mr. Traverso argued that if it remains a private trust, the Feoffees will report only to the Attorney General of Massachusetts and will be exempt from all of the laws pertaining to transparency and accountability.

In discussion, the Board set out to include items in the Trust revision which would demand an accounting by the Feoffees. Following the suggested revision done by Richard C. Allen of Casner & Edwards, LLP, the members reviewed sections and deleted and/or added sections. The new draft will be reviewed by members at their April 26 meeting.

Mr. Traverso disagreed with the Feoffees method of setting the value of a lot; that is, letting a third party, rather than an assessor, do the work. It seemed ridiculous to him that the least valuable lot (\$80,000) and the most valuable lot (\$300,000) pay the same rent. Mr. Loeb recalled that in April, 2005, the School Committee had signed off on the current rental setup as consensus for one year according to Minutes.

Dr. O'Flynn recalled a letter that Mr. Traverso had written which proposed a new system for rent assessment that would be fair and equal and which could go a long way toward settling the issue by using the assessor's values.



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Mr. Hopping asked for clarity as to whether the Feoffees were created by an act of the government, and Mr. Loeb replied that the issue is currently being litigated by the District Attorney's office.

Members discussed the question, if it came to it, whether the School Committee would go forward with the revision alone. Consensus of members was that, if there is not a consensus with the Board of Selectmen and the Feoffees, the School Committee would go forward with their attorney to the Judge of Probate Court. Mrs. Ross commented that it is important that the whole process be expedited as quickly as possible.

Mr. Korb suggested that the Feoffees design a five-year capital improvement plan. A percentage (say 5%) of the rentals could be set aside annually in a fund, Mr. Traverso said, that would be used for ongoing maintenance and unusual expenses rather than the current sporadic method of informing the School Committee at a late date that large sums of money needed to be spent on upkeep/modernization of the property and, therefore, couldn't be presented to the school system.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. UNANIMOUS.