

November 22, 2022

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on November 22, 2022.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.  
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Hale, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: None

\*\*\* Attorney Feintuch was also present.

Motion to accept the minutes of October 25, 2022 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote.  
None opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

VOUCHERS:

**VOUCHER REPORTS**

Date of Council Meeting:  
November 22, 2022

Voucher #	Payable to:	Type of Service	Amount	Check #
11-01-2022	Advanced Auto	Ground and Roads	\$ 275.57	
11-02-2022	Anderson & Denzler Associates	Legal OE	\$ 3,595.33	
11-03-2022	County Of Morris Treasurer	Clerk OE	\$ 3,716.10	
11-04-2022	County Of Morris Treasurer	Clerk OE	\$ 90.10	
11-05-2022	Glass Gardens	Halloween party supplies	\$ 262.75	
11-06-2022	Interstate Waste	Trash Removal	\$ 11,910.25	
11-07-2022	JCPL Fire house	Fire OE	\$ 141.56	
11-08-2022	JLM Computers	Clerk OE	\$ 252.14	
11-09-2022	Kendayll Hedgepath	Halloween party supplies	\$ 41.42	
11-10-2022	Manuel Venero	Clerk OE	\$ 44.13	
11-11-2022	MGL Printing Solutions	Assessor OE	\$ 623.00	
11-12-2022	Morris County MUA	Shade Tree	\$ 609.75	
11-13-2022	NJ State League of Municipalities	Mayor/council Admin OE	\$ 160.00	
11-14-2022	NJNG Borough Hall	Utilities	\$ 1,405.00	
11-15-2022	NJNG Firehouse	Utilities	\$ 51.00	
11-16-2022	Optimum Borough Hall	Clerk OE	\$ 11.47	
11-17-2022	Petty Cash	Clerk OE	\$ 55.20	
11-18-2022	Post Master General	Clerk OE	\$ 600.00	
11-19-2022	Protective measures seecurity and fire	Fire OE	\$ 251.50	
11-20-2022	Protective measures seecurity and fire	Fire OE	\$ <del>6,000.00</del> 4,500.00	
11-21-2022	R & L Data Center	Clerk OE	\$ 260.00	
11-22-2022	Training Unlimited	Clerk OE	\$ 375.00	
11-23-2022	Verizon 973-361-8121	Utilities	\$ 74.64	
11-24-2022	Viking Pest control	Building and Grounds	\$ 135.00	
11-25-2022	Wex Bank Shell	Road OE	\$ 691.74	
11-26-2022	Eduardo Martinez	Roads SW	\$ 2,942.72	
11-27-2022	Eduardo Martinez	Roads SW	\$ 2,942.72	
11-28-2022	Hector Lorenzo	Roads SW	\$ 1,821.60	
11-29-2022	Hector Lorenzo	Roads SW	\$ 1,821.60	
11-30-2022	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,360.00	
11-31-2022	Leticia Diaz	Clerk SW	\$ 1,360.00	

**Total** \$ 34,575.37

\$ 34,575.37

VOUCHERS CONTINUED:

Mayor Holeman asked if there were any questions on the vouchers?  
Councilwoman Montes asked about #11-20? The Clerk said the initial proposal from Protective for the fire alarm panel was \$6,000. That is what they said it would cost as an estimate. When the bill came in it was for \$4,000. I contacted the insurance company and they are going to pay it. We have a \$1,000 deductible. Our insurance company said they will go after JCP&L. Joe will cut a new check for us for \$4,000 and this one will be voided.  
Councilwoman Cheatham asked why there are 2 payperiods on the voucehr listing? We are paying the last paycheck in November and the first pay in December. We don't have a council meeting until December 20th so the employees had to be paid. They won't get the check until it is due.

Motion to approve the vouchers for payment by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

DECEMBER MEETING DATE CHANGED - Our meeting date will be changed to December 20th. This is because on December 13 which would have been our regular meeting, that is when the Dover schools have their referendum and we will be voting that day.

RESOLUTION AMENDING POLICY MANUAL -Everyone has a copy of the Resolution.  
Motion to approve the resolution made by Councilwoman montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

\*\*\* See Resolution Next Page

NEW BUSINESS. CONTINUED:

RESOLUTION AMENDING POLICY MANUAL -

RESOLUTION AMENDING PERSONAL POLICY OF VICTORY GARDENS PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL AT PAGE 46, SECTION 5 (SEPARATION PAY, PROCEDURE

WHEREAS: The legislature of the State of New Jersey having adopted language that conflicts with the language contained in the Borough's Policy and Procedure manual; and

WHEREAS: The governing body of the Borough seeks to conform its Policy and Procedure Manual to the State's mandate:

NOW THEREFORE, it is Resolved as follows:

The language contained at the above site is to be AMENDED to read as follows:

Section 5. Separation

*At the separation of service with the Borough and employee will receive full pay for their final work period and accumulated pro-vacation days without any monetary limit. Further the employee will receive half pay for pro-rated unused sick days, for a sum not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00). However, the Fifteen Thousand Dollar (\$15,000.00) limitation shall not apply to any person(s) who commenced their employment prior to the year 2010.*

*In those cases where vacation time has been taken prior to being earned, the amount of unearned vacation time shall be deducted from the employee's final paycheck.*

*If an employee is terminated for any reason other than retirement, there shall be no payment for unused sick leave days.*

*That portion of this Section not changed by this Addendum shall remain as part of the Borough's Police and Practice.*

DAVID HOLEMAN, MAYOR

HIRING RESOLUTION FOR MANUEL VANEREO - Everyone has a copy of the Resolution.

Motion to approve the resolution by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	No

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NEW BUSIENSS CONTINUED:

HIRING RESOLUTION FOR MANUEL VENEREO -

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MANUEL VENEREO TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH  
OF VICTORY GARDENS

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Victory Gardens has been advised that there was a retirement of an employee of the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the department requires at least 2 employees, and

WHEREAS, Manuel Venereo has been interviewed by the responsible Governing Body representatives, and

WHEREAS, Manuel Venereo has been recommended to the full elected Committee and the Borough Council has voted to hire Manuel Venereo.

NOW THEREFORE, Manuel Venereo is hired to work in the Department of Public Works as a full time employee beginning on January 1, 2023, at the rate of \$25.00 per hour and will receive all the emoluments of a full time employee as set forth in the Policy and Procedure Manual. In addition, Manuel Venereo will work 3 days mutually agreed to by the Governing Body. Manuel Venereo will work those 3 days during the month of December 2022 for training and he will be paid for these days.

ADDITIONALLY, and as provided by the Borough's Policy and Procedure Manual there is a 90 day probationary period that must be satisfied prior to Manuel Venereo becoming a permanent employee of the Borough.

David L. Holeman, Jr. Mayor

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens do hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens held on 11-22-2022.

Deborah Evans  
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LETICIA DIAZ TO THE POSITION OF REGISTRAR

Everyone has a copy of the Resolution. The Clerk said she wanted Letty put on as the Registrar and she will go to Deputy Registrar. She will have to do this when I retire and she needs to hold the position so that I can break her in.

Motion to approve the Resolution by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

RESOLUTION FOR REFUND OF OVERPAID SEWER CHARGES -

BOROUGH OF VICTORY GARDENS  
COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY

REFUND OVERPAID SEWER CHARGES

WHEREAS, an overpayment of \$210.00 was received for Block 17  
Lot 15.01 and applied to 2022 sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, an overpayment of \$210.00 was received by Block 17  
Lot 15.02 and applied to 2022 sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is requesting that the overpayment be returned  
to the property owner as a refund;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of  
Victory Gardens, in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey  
as follows:

Refund of \$420.00 to be issued to the property owner at 7 Jefferson Ave  
TeK Chang + Subhagwati Kumar

Karen L. Ferrone, Tax Collector

Dated: 11-22-2022

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris,  
State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and  
exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough  
of Victory Gardens held on 11-22-2022.

Deborah Evans  
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

Motion to approve the Resolution by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by  
Councilwoman Montes and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Hale	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

PRESENTATION BY DOVER IN REGARDS TO A NEW SCHOOL AND AN ADDITION -

Making the presentation tonight are Jim McLaughlin Supt. of Dover Schools,  
Dihanna Grizales Board of Ed Mmember and Ray Slamb the school Business  
Administrator.

We are here to talk about the referendum and the impact on both Dover  
and Victory Gardens. A slide show was presented which ran about 10 minutes.

Dr. McLaughlin stated that they have almost 1,000 more students than  
space allows. We are 946 students above capacity. This is not a new problem.  
There has been a problem for many years. 30 years ago when there was an issue  
with the schools being overcrowded has just compounded over the years. We  
have rented space for preschoolers.

The slide show showed pictures of the rendering of the new middle  
school (3 floors) and a 2 story addition onto the high school. This is a 30  
year payback on this loan. The addition will be around \$68 million dollars.  
We will be getting \$8 million from the State.

For Victory Gardens on a home assessed at 170,000 we will see an increase  
in taxes of about \$600 per year. For Dover residents a home assessed at  
240,000 would see a \$611 increase.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

DOVER BOARD OF EDUCATION COMINTUED - All information is on the Dover website. We will be having 2 more meetings. Winter of 2023 if approved construction will begin. Changes have been made to the start times for the middle school and the high school in order to avoid any further traffic issues. There will be a 35 minute change in times.

Dr. McLaughlin said that they will answer questions from the Governing Body as well as the public.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said that hte average costs of homes in Victory Gardens is \$170,000 and in Dover \$240,000. We are estimated at \$41 monthly and Dover at \$48 monthly. Correct. Dover has more homes and therefore, that amount is divided amongst all the homes. Victory Gardens has less homes so that is why it is higher. We have under 300 students in Victory Gardnes and Dover has over 3,000. This calculation doesn't work for VG because we dont have a lot of kids going to the schools.

Attorney Feintuch said the formula is fixed by the State not Dover. At what rate was this calculated? Don't have an answer for tonight. Who came up with the cost of the project?

Councilman Lorenzo asked if this would be jsut for Victory Gardens and Dover kids? Yes. Mine Hill sends us kids but they pay tuition. Mine Hill sends us 7 thru 12th grade students. Not all their students come to Dover. This will factor into their tuitioin. So their tuition will go up. Most likely.

Councilwoman Cheatham asked if information will get back to us prior to the election? Yes.

Councilman Lorenzo asked if more than one company would be asked for proposals? Yes, it would be advertised. Multiple contractors hopefully will bid on the project. When will construction start and end? If this passes it should start in 2023 and be finished by 2025.

Councilwoman Montes asked if there were traffic studies done? Yes. We also had a lot of questions about drainage issues. Our architect will be at the next 2 virtual meetings to respond to people. They can not do anything that will put more water on to peoples property. By changing the arrival and dismissal times we don't expect a lot of traffic. There is no study done on the traffic. We do have a constant coversation with the DOT. We should have more information on that before the referendum.

Councilman Lorenzo asked about security? We will have security at the schools. This comes thru the regular operating budget. We have officers in schools. We have interior cameras and exterior cameras.

The Mayor asked with all this expansion how many new teachers will you have to hire? We hire teachers all the time. Just becasue the schools are getting bigger it does't mean we will need more staff. At Academy Street School we have 18 teachers that need space to do the work with the students they need to do. We need space for the staff and teachers that we already have. Moving the 5th and 6th graders out of the elementary schools will free up space. We would have to increase custodial staff and security. You may beed more secretaries. We don't have surplus in those areas.

Attorney Feintuch asked if they projected the number of students going to the schools? It's difficult to project numbers. We have about 67 new students that came from new projects in Dover. We are seeing more than that coming into our schools. The State said we have approximately 700 students that we do not have space for and that does not include our Pre K. None of these new buildings will be for Pre K. They will still be housed where they currently are. We have 308 Pre K students that are in 12 different sites.

What we had to provide our students according to the state is a lot more than what it was back in 2001. Mental health issues inthe schools have increased dramatically. All the services need a place to meet with the kids that are private. Right now to accommodate this they go into the principles office and the principle works at the counter. The lack of space has been an ongoing problem. We did free up some room by buying the Belmont Avenue building. Thsi just put a dent in the problem with the need for space.

The Clerk said you have 67 new students in Dover. What about all the building that you are doing in Dover? How many kids will that bring in. It will bring in more. What is your future projections? You are putting up a brand new middle school and an addition onto the high school. You want to build these buildings now but when you put 800 more apartments in town what is that going to do with the schools? There will be kids coming out of those apartments. That could cause a need for more space maybe 10 years down the line Dr. McLaughlin stated. They are building in a way for expansion. The high school was not built for expansion. Is that why you can't build on to either East Dover or North Dover? There is ample room forthose two schools to be able to build around them but you can't go up for the same reasons. What are the hours going to be if you are staggering school times for arrival and dismissal? High school will move up in time and the middle school will be pushed back.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

DOVER SCHOOLS CONTINUED - The Clerks questions continue. What is going into the new high school addition? Will it be all classrooms? Mostly class rooms. There will be science labs, art rooms, multi use spaces, an auditorium is built into the design. Do you have another plan in case the referendum doesn't pass? No. We are putting together an alternative. We may have to alter some program designs.

Councilman Lorenzo asked if they are prepared if case for some reason the kids can't get back into schools? We are prepared for online classes. What about sports? The new school will have a multi purpose room that will act as an auditorium and a gym. The high school currently has a gym. This will not increase.

Councilwoman Montes asked if the tennis courts will still be there? No. Currently they are not being used. They require a lot of repair work. If we need them we will go in with another school.

The Mayor asked if this 68 million include tables, chairs, desks, computers? Desks and the such are included. Computers are not. Computers will come out of the operating budget.

There were no more questions from the Council. The Mayor made an announcement that the public will be limited to 3 minutes per person. We have a lot of people here and we want everyone to have a chance to speak.

Jim Janone - I asked earlier for a breakdown of VG students going to Dover schools. Do you have an answer for me tonight. Yes. 2009 235 students, 2010 236 students, 2011 234 students, 2012 242 students, 2013 258 students, 2014 295 students, 2015 277 students, 2016 263 students, 2017 263 students, 2018 259 students, 2019 274 students and 2020 259 students. 2021 285. So then we average in the high 200s. Yes. How are you checking residency? We are allowed to ask different things. We have a person that looks into this also. We use a digital service.

Joan Cegelka - How long do we have to pay for this? 30 years. How much will your regular budget go up and how much have you projected? The tax levy for children goes up every year. So not only will be paying for the building of schools but also for your regular budget as well. Mr. Slamb said that he has been here for a year and there was a zero tax increase. Then we will have a zero increase in VG? July to June is zero percent. How much else will we have to pay? We can only increase the 2%. you can not raise more than that every year. We don't know what the State Aid will be every year. How much will these new buildings cost in heating, electric, etc? Our architect told us just last week that a project they are working on came in at \$100 less per foot. The State will not give you approval to go over 2%? No.

Gina Brisson - So just to be clear, Victory Gardens will pay more than a resident of Dover based on your slide presentation? Yes. what are the disadvantages besides not being enough space? The level of education, the flexibility to provide education to the highest standard. We have 77 students in private placements. In addition we have 18 students who go to other typical school districts. They go there because we can't provide for them here. The school pays a high transportation rate and tuition rate for those students. There is a fiscal impact. There has been some neglect in the past before you came up with this solution. I think it is unfair to the community - you see what inflation is like now. Had this been addressed 5 or 6 years ago, people may have been more receptive. When the price of eggs is \$5 and the gas prices are so high - I am here for others. It may be \$50 per month but it is money that could go for something else. Goign forward, I hope you do better strageic planning. we have a lot of people here on fixed income and for our seniors this will be a problem. If it is up to me and I had a kid that was in a class so big I would prefer that they stay in the class and keep the money in thier own pockets to help with household stuff. This is not the best time for this added cost.

Norberto Suarez - I live in VG but I own a property in Dover. Is the Town of Dover talking to the Board of Ed to see what they can do to stop this problem? I know that they have landlords that are renting just a room to 4 people - in one room. Has anyone thought about what will be done because Dover caters to the minorities. We have been trying to communicate with the Town of Dover. We are waiting to hear back from them so we can talk about these issued. So you will have more kids coming into the schools. The prior debt that you have what was that from? Expansions at the middle school in 2003. A media center at the high school and I think there was work done at North Dover. This debt comes off in 2026. We refinanced this debt to lower rates when we could.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Theresa Mendoza - What classes are over 30 students? All regular classes. I read that we had 77 out of district students and that some have been brought back. is that correct? We have 77 out of district. If we can accommodate them then we will bring them back but we haven't brought any back at this time. This number that you are giving us as a tax increase is only going to start there and it will keep going up. The average senior can expect about \$130 per month. That will be absorbed by this increase. 2020 census data is expected to be released in a few months. Why can't this get postponed until we get that data? You would be able to make a more solid prediction at that time. If the enrollment goes down we may not need all this space. This has been a long standing issue it is not a current trend. There has been a need for over 10 years.

Susan Shower from Dover - What changed in 2022 was capacity compared to enrollment. I looked at Dovers reports from 2003 to 2021 that we do to the State. The capacity from every single school remained constant. Anytime you have a crisis somewhere else we are impacted. There are alot more social services that we have to give out, you hired 18 new staff memebtrs but you didn't have a desk for them. Your lack of planning is not my emergency. You have to have a plan. We are shipping out 3 and 4 year olds because we have no place for them. The State tells us to send our Pre K out. We have significant lapses in learning, achievement, this is not new. We have the lowest graduation rate in Morris County. we can't say that we won't supply mental health or special education. Test scores are under 50% . We have to have basic skills teachers.

Sonia Guirrocha - My children did go to Dover and then went to Morris Knolls. People are retired, people are low income. How will they be able to afford to live here? Taxes will be going up so much. There has to be some other solution to this problem. A lot of kids don't belong here. I am a single mom and I have to take care of my family. everything is so expensive. This is going to hurt a lot of families here. we are getting more kids because there are more and more people coming here. We try for grants. we have gotten some. We get PEA funding for our 3 and 4 year old Pre K. We have asked for more funding. We look for resources everywhere we can. I don't think by expanding our schools that it will bring more students to us.

Teresita Lolo - I moved here in 2000. At that time I paid \$1,100 in taxes. I pay \$1,700 now. I never had children. I support hte education. I grew up in the Phillipines with 52 in a class. I did well. That \$48 will make a big impact on me because I am retired. I would like to stay in VG. I may have to sell my house. That \$48 dollar increase if not more, will be paid for taxes and I may not be able to pay my food or utilities. I didn't feel it before because I was working. Can you do more adjustments so it doesn't hurt so bad.

Attorney Feintuch - What is the average cost for a student? It depends on the grade the student is in. How does it compare to the rest of the State? Four years ago we were the lowest spending district in the State. It increases every year. In those areas that pay more per student for education how does it compare to us? Is it greater than? Less than or about the same? We have the lowest graduation rate in Morris County. 2021 an 8th grade student costs us \$11,600 per student.

Gina Brisson - Can the new facilities be used to bring in revenue? Can you rent spaces at the school once school is out for the day? We can rent space. Be creative with this since we are paying the money.

Councilwoman Hedgepath asked if Dover charges for the rec basketball. We do not charge the rec. I understand that they do charge. It is over \$100. They say it is for paying for the gym. They don't pay us for anything.

Angela Ramos - Thank you to the Council for having this meeting with the Board of Ed. I have been in town for 11 years. I was upset when i moved here because of the school district. I had a choice to work with the school district. When kids are little they need to have a great school experience. I know that our taxes will go up. I know to pay the money is extra. If it means one less cup of coffee then it is worth it. This is a dream for the kids to have their own school. Taxes will go up every year with or without a new school. We have no representation on the school board. You do have rights as a parent and you can go to the Board meetings.



NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Dover Board of Education Continued - Jim Janone - Current debt will save \$120 to the taxpayers. What about the renters? when our rental fees go up we will never get any money back on that.

Theresa Mendoza - We love our kids. we care about their future, their health, we are just in really bad times. I am a single mom. I graduated from Dover. My mom is scared and worried. Seniors in town are still working 40 hours a week. We owe them more than that. That is why I am asking for you to postpone this. Foreclosure rates are up. Food and gas are up. It may not seem like a lot for some but for others it is a lot. If we build these schools - okay they have a beautiful school to go to. But they may not be eating as much at home. Cuts have to come from somewhere.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said it is affecting our seniors. We have seniors that have been in this town well over 50 plus years. On fixed income. We are all here for the community. This is just too much for us. Dover has been overcrowded for many years.

Peter Gori - I think there has been constructive dialogue tonight. Obviously this town is feeling the pain. This is a working class town. We rough it around here. We learn how to get by. We don't necessarily think that spending money really solves the problems of our community. There are deeper underlying problems in this community. I'm sure you are very aware of. I think that deep down in your heart you know that money won't solve these problems. Everybody needs to look in the mirror at home and say a lot of these kids need varying social services. So many broken homes in here. So much friction and fighting. We are missing the point here. We all need to dig down deeper and solve the problems of this community. Spending more money is not going to solve anything. I had kids go to these schools. I was a volunteer coach for years. I worked on excellence. When I was coaching, no one volunteered. I did everything and you know what, we beat bigger schools like Randolph. We dug down deep. We had heart. We got it done with no help. We solved our problems that way. we worked hard, we practiced hard. We all communicated. We took on all roles and responsibilities. I'm not saying it is easy for you and the school system. I believe some of your problems are real. Spending this kind of money I think it is just too much to ask. We aren't talking about Alpine New Jersey or Chatham. This is Dover and Victory Gardens. This is a hardcore working community. A lot of these people here tonight are parents. They want what is best for their kids as we all do. I don't believe that what is best for our kids is just giving them more and more and more. There has to be other solutions to this problem. I see the people who are out here struggling everyday. Senior citizens, people with language barriers, they are struggling, they can't afford this. I think it is too much at this time. It is a lot of money for these people. The ballot question - the public has not been notified properly. This seems to have come up so quickly. I attended your Dover meeting. a lot of people in the towns aren't getting the information. They aren't getting the full impact on what this is. Your question on the ballot doesn't say anything about a property tax increase. The average person when they look at this won't know what it means. To have a real vote the communities need to know more. You should push this back at least another month.

Jim Janone - Have you thought about doing an online survey of the residents? even before you did this special election. we did not do an online survey. We did a survey of our parents and we did not get a good response. We are trying to get better participation.

Irina Gori - Can you split the school sessions? That is how they did it where I am from. we can do that but it is not feasible. I grew up in New York City and we had split sessions. It is unusual in our state. there are so many things to figure out. Especially at the high school level. we have a lot of kids that work.

Deb Acevedo - Dover - I was reading the ballot. Can you explain the 13 million borrowing capacity. Mr. Slamb said part of the problem was that they had to ask for an extension of 13 million dollars. We were merged in 2009 with Victory Gardens. As far as finances, we are considered a regional school district. we couldn't go through the town for this we had to go through a separate approval process. Are we a regional district just as far as finances are or we a true regional district? a regional district means that you serve multiple towns. We are a regional district. It is really a budget term.

Norberto Suarez - Talking about what this one person said about the renters and costs going up. I live in VG and I am also a landlord in Dover. You have to do more to let the renters know what is going on. I'm already wondering what I am going to say to my tenants. How do I tell them rent is

Norberto Suarez Continued - going up. It is not just \$48. There will be other increases. Take that into consideration also.

Joan Cegelka - What is the difference between consolidated and regional? They are one in the same. It is just terms that the State uses.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out and discussing this issue. we will be continuing our meeting.

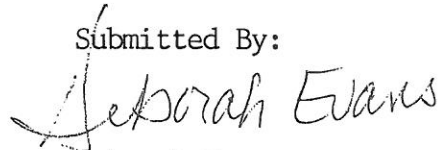
Motion to open the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Hedgepath, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - I think you should consider a Housing Officer for next year. Debbe has asked about this in the past. Mr. Lorenzo you said to wait and see what happens. I hope Debbe pushes you for the Housing Officer. In regards to voucher 11-14 why is the gas bill so high? Manny's application he left out alot of information. I found out some information and I don't think the town did a good background check on him. The Clerk said we do our checks through the State Police. He went for fingerprinting and background check and we haven't gotten the paperwork back yet. Can we legally have 2 registrars? Yes you can. I asked the Council to make her the Registrar and me the Deputy. In answer to your questions, yes, you can have multiple registrars. What does a Registrar do? Marriage, birth, death records. Are we paying her more money to be Registrar? No.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:



Deborah Evans  
Borough Clerk