

**Town of Montgomery**  
**Meeting of the Board of Selectmen/Special Town Meeting**  
**Location: 161 Main Road, Montgomery, MA 01085 (Town Hall)**  
**Minutes for January 7, 2020**

**Present for the Montgomery Board of Selectmen:** Donald Washburn, Michael Morrissey, Jane Thielen, Maggie Bean-Ducharme

**Present for the Russell Board of Selectmen:** Keith Cortis, Jeff Bean, Wayne Precanico

**7:10 PM Meeting called to order.** Maggie took the minutes.

**I. Selectmen New Business**

1. Joint meeting with the Town of Russell Board of Selectmen, to discuss the proposed Regional School District agreement. Present from the Russell Board of Selectmen are Keith Cortis, Jeff Bean & Wayne Precanico. Reference to this meeting see copy of agreement dated May 23, 2019.
  - a. Page one "school district" would be referring to Gateway Regional School District.
  - b. Weighted Vote, pg 1 C - There is some discussion regarding changing the language in favor of each town getting a full vote despite the number of reps at time of vote. Would like language written in prior to meeting with the School Committee.
  - c. Vacancies, pg 2 D - suggested mass general law is referenced.
  - d. Organization, pg 3 - leave for discussion with Gateway negotiations, questions as to date for vote of chairperson needs to be clarified.
  - e. Vocational Students, pg 3&4 - language regarding adjustments made for the Towns after census is done in March so as not to overstate enrollments.
  - f. Lease of School in Member Towns, pg 4, #3 - Russell to negotiate regarding old elementary school building they own.
  - g. Public Budget Hearing and Approval, pg4&5 - discussions regarding cleaning the language up to read easier.
  - h. Statutory Assessment Method, pg6 B1 - based on alternative method, want to use statutory method, D & E language is confusing re: budgets based on current year vs prior years, use one method for all.
  - i. Alternative Assessment Method, pg 7 C - discussions regarding agreement with the attorney reply (in red).
  - j. Committee Budget Vote, pg 7 - discussions regarding using one method of assessment, statutory being most desirable, and eliminating the other method.
  - k. Section VIII Transportation, pg 8 - suggested that mass general law is followed.
  - l. Section X, A&B pg 9 - discussions regarding agreement with the attorney response A&B, further clarification is needed.
  - m. Section XI Withdrawal B pg10 - suggested a time frame of 60 days be inserted.
  - n. Section XI Withdrawal pg 11 - in regards to OPEB (retirement) - must explain how they arrive at the OPEB numbers, no solid formula being used anywhere in the state, all agree OPEB should be removed from the agreement all together until this is clarified.

- o. Approval of Withdrawal D, pg 11 - agreement that towns should have the vote on withdrawal, not the school committee.
- p. Section XII B, pg 12 - discussions surrounding agreement of attorney response written in red.

Mike Morrissey motions to amend the current document and proceed forward with sending it to the School Committee chair. Montgomery Town Board of Selectmen all in favor, unanimous vote.

Keith Cortis motions to amend the current document and proceed forward with sending it to the School Committee chair. Russell Town Board of Selectmen all in favor, unanimous vote.

2. Other legal actions to come before the Board, discussed with Russell Town Selectboard, members of Russell Board present are Keith Cortis, Jeff Bean and Wayne Precanico. Suggested that the two towns share law enforcement, may pursue funding through the PVPC DTLA grant. All boards in agreement to move forward with this plan.

**8:30 PM Closed Town of Montgomery selectboard meeting**

**8:30 PM Moved to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. Unanimous vote.**