

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Town Meeting
From: RTM Finance, Education and Public Protection Committees
Date: March 2, 2013
Re: Appropriation Request of \$100,000 to Fund a Professional Security Audit to Enhance Security in the Westport Public Schools - Addendum

The three RTM Committees (Finance, Education and Public Protection) reconvened their joint meeting on February 28th to continue their review of the \$100,000 appropriation request with Elaine Whitney, Chair of the Board of Education ("BOE"). Ms. Whitney indicated that two changes were in the process of being added to the security proposal (at the request of the Board of Finance ("BOF")) before their vote on February 13th) that the town is a co-client and to formalize and codify procedures that would include our first responders as part of the audit.

Many committee members were concerned with several aspects of the process – choosing Kroll without issuing an RFP and getting bids, whether Kroll is the right firm for Westport (based on their experience performing security audits in Iraq, Afghanistan and in inner city private schools). There were also concerns that Kroll would not make recommendations that are suitable and cost-effective for Westport. Conversely, others looked positively that the audit will now include our first responders in the process and also with the BOE's attorney expected to issue a favorable opinion why a personal service contract with Kroll did not have to go through a formal bidding process (although some felt that an opinion from the BOE's attorney would lack objectivity). At the end of the meeting, the Committees voted as follows:

Finance: Vote to recommend approval, subject to receiving by noon on Monday, an opinion from the BOE's attorney that obtaining competitive bids is not required and seeing a copy of the revised proposal formalizing the town as a co-client. The vote to recommend approval, with the conditions noted above, failed 2 to 3 with 3 abstentions (yes -- Arthurs and Wieser; no -- McCarthy, Nathan and Talmadge and abstaining -- Bomes, Lowenstein and Schine).

Education: The vote to recommend approval (without conditions) was 2 to 1 with 2 abstentions (yes -- Mall and Meyer; no -- Rossi and abstaining -- Flug and Rubin).

Public Protection: The vote to recommend approval (without conditions) was 1 to 0 with 4 abstentions (yes -- Mall and abstaining -- Kane, Izzo, Lowenstein and Rubin).