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## Letter: About 'disparaging' remarks

Thursday, December 8, 2005

To the editor:

Reading's Town Meeting is governed by the laws of the Commonwealth, the Charter, By-Laws and until recently Roberts Rule of Order and now Town Meeting Time.

Both Roberts and Town Meeting Time state that a motion to indefinitely postpone allows debate of the whole article, in this case Article 9 of the Nov. 17, 2005 Town Meeting (High School Funding) and not as the moderator sated just the culvert.

Thus when a Town Meeting member asked questions and made comments on how she felt that monies for the high school project have not been properly spent, she was within her rights to do so. The moderator was correct in pointing out to her that about the Wood End School did not pertain to the high school funding.

The chairman of the School Committee at one point with a Town Meeting member stated that he felt that she was making "disparaging" remarks and that "we're all adults and should treat each other like adults because our children may be watching Town Meeting" and that he would remove her from the meeting if she did not stop.

While as chairman of the School Committee he may do so at a School Committee meeting, only the moderator has the authority to do so at Town Meeting.

Perhaps two or three years ago the now chairman of the School Committee had a picture on the front page of the Advocate making what myself and others felt was a very visual "disparaging" comment after two outspoken school project Town Meeting members where not reelected, was that treating others like adults, or perhaps the children did not read the papers?

He cast his bread upon the waters.

William C. Brown

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