

November 30, 2016

Present was Jeffrey Palumbo, Scott Bugbee, James Lehan, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator and Marian Harrington, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Jeff Palumbo opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Jeff announced that the meeting was audio and video taped. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present was Loraine Fields, Chief Assessor, and Todd Lindmark, Town Accountant. Resident Peter Svalbe of Everett Street was present.

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct the annual Tax Classification Hearing. The public hearing notice was published in the November 19, 2016 edition of ***The Sun Chronicle***.

Jeff opened the hearing and Jim read the public hearing notice. Loraine presented a power point. She said that this is not a hearing to determine the tax rate, but rather for the Selectmen to consider a single or split tax rate.

Jim said we have to do the single rate, because we don't want to put the burden on the commercial businesses.

Loraine did a brief summary of how she arrived at the tax rate. Loraine said that the tax rate for 2017 is \$18.22. She said that last year was a full certification year. The state has turned the three-year certification into a five-year certification. The next full certification will be 2021. Loraine said that commercial properties are now being done in-house.

Loraine said state law requires this hearing. Chapter 40, Section 56 allows us to have different tax bases. Because we have mostly small businesses, we go with a single rate. The tax rate is determined by the budget, which is set at town meeting by the residents.

Jack gave kudos to Loraine and Todd for their joint efforts in establishing the tax rate.

Peter Svalbe asked how his home would be assessed by a similar property and/or neighborhood. Loraine answered his question.

Jim Lehan moved to keep a level tax rate for residential and commercial properties. Scott Bugbee seconded, and it was **so voted**.

The Board briefly discussed the role of the DPW in the new Public Safety building, and Fire building. Jim said that the Planning Board would be involved with the project. He said that the regional dispatch is state funded, but the public safety is us. Jim said this discussion could be confusing to any residents watching, and tried to explain. He said we are not circumventing the bidding process. We will be saving over a half million dollars over both projects.

The Board will start their December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6 p.m. in order to be able to attend the Planning Board meeting the same evening, specifically the public hearing on the Public Safety Building.

At 6:20 p.m., Scott Bugbee moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's Meeting of November 30, 2016.

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James Lehan, Clerk