

## MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

December 4, 2006

Present: Selectmen James Galligan, Dennis Crowley, Glenn Trindade. Richard Dunne, Town Administrator, Suzanne Kennedy and Administrative Services Assistant, Celeste Hanson were present. Selectman Kent Scott arrived at 6:13 p.m.

6:01 p.m. – Chairman Galligan called the special session to order in Room 111A of the Medway High School. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments:** None.

### **Tax Classification hearing:**

- Chairman Galligan opened the Tax Classification hearing and the Clerk (Selectman Crowley) read the Public Hearing Notice. Chairman Galligan noted that the Assessor's prepared a chart and explanation of data relative to the Tax Classification Hearing.
- Chairman Willisson (Board of Assessors) indicated and explained that the chart shows the effect of various shifts on the average single family tax bill and the average commercial tax bill. Assessor Willisson noted that Medway has utilized a single tax rate since 1985 and that the relative flatness of the residential tax rate is due to the current tax base (89.4%). Assessor Willisson indicated that even if the Town elected to shift a large portion of tax burden to the commercial class there would be a small change in the residential tax bills. Assessor Willisson entertained questions from the Board and entered into a brief discussion.
- Chairman Galligan commented that if the maximum tax burden was shifted to the commercial class the town would discourage new businesses from coming to Medway.
- Chairman Galligan recommended that the Town retain a single tax rate, given that a split tax rate would provide a very limited benefit to residents, which substantially increasing the tax on local businesses, due to the Town's high proportion of residential tax base. Selectman Trindade moved that the Town retain the single tax rate; seconded by Selectman Dunne; all ayes 5-0-0 (voted). Assessor Willisson indicated that final DOR approval of the valuations was expected to be received by Thursday, December 7. The Town Moderator (Mark Cerel) recommended that the Board rescind the previous vote until such time as the DOR review was finalized. Administrator Kennedy stated that the Town's DOR representative (Kathy Reed) recommended voting on the tax rate tonight, contingent upon final approval of the valuations. The Board entered into a brief discussion.
- Selectman Crowley asked the Assessors if any of other departments of Town Hall interfered with any of the tasks involved with the Assessors preparation of local assessments or data needed in order to certify the values necessary to hold an early

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classification hearing. Assessor Willisson indicated no other department of Town Hall was responsible or interfered with the Assessor's departmental tasks.

- Selectman Trindade moved to rescind the previous vote taken by the Board; seconded by Selectman Dunne; all ayes (5-0-0) voted. Selectman Trindade moved that the Town retain the single tax rate pending certification of values from the Department of Revenue (DOR) and continue the Tax Classification Hearing to Monday, December 11, 2006, in order to ratify such vote; seconded by Selectman Scott; all ayes 5-0-0 (voted).

**Approve and sign warrant:**

- Selectman Trindade moved that the Board approve and sign warrant twenty-three (23) for fiscal year '07 as read in the total amount of \$1,246,349.77; Selectman Dunne seconded; All ayes 5-0-0 (voted).

**Approval 2007 Annual License:**

- Selectman Trindade moved that the Board approve the list of 2007 Annual Licenses; seconded by Selectman Dunne; all ayes 5-0-0 (voted).

**Report of the Town Administrator:**

- Administrator Kennedy did not have a report.

**Reports of the Selectmen:**

- The Selectmen did not have reports this week

**Report of the Chairman:**

- Chairman Galligan did not have a report this week.

*6:40 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, Selectman Scott moved that the special session meeting be adjourned; Selectman Dunne seconded; all ayes 5-0-0 (voted).*

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Hanson  
Administrative Services Assistant

**NOTE: APPROVED BY BOS ON**