

*New Durham Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 9, 2016*

**NEW DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
New Durham Town Hall
November 9, 2016, 5:00p.m.**

Present

Chair David Bickford
Selectman David Swenson
Selectman Gregory Anthes

Also Present:

Scott Kinmond, Town Administrator

Call to Order

Chair Bickford called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

Chair Bickford stated the initial tax rate estimate has been received from the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and the Board of Selectmen plan to discuss what they will apply towards that. Selectman Swenson stated the tax rate is based on the new valuation which is roughly 3% lower than 2015. He explained the tax rate for the Operating Budget of the Town and the school budget and also gave a review of last year's rates. Selectman Swenson noted the initial rates set by DRA for the Town is \$5.57 per thousand dollar valuation before any unassigned fund balance is applied to the tax rate and the school rate is \$12.22 per thousand dollar valuation. Town Administrator Kinmond noted the Unassigned Fund Balance is currently \$1,128,045 and that represents 10.73% of the Town's budget. A spreadsheet for the different rates was reviewed and discussed. There was discussion on how the overall tax rate could be reduced. Selectman Anthes stated he wants to get the tax rate much lower. Selectman Swenson and Town Administrator Kinmond noted they need to make sure the cuts are sustainable and the Town services can still function at the desired service levels.

Selectman Anthes initially proposed to apply \$205,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Selectman Swenson felt that \$125,000 is the appropriate amount. Selectman Bickford proposed \$150,000. Selectman Swenson felt this was high but could go along with it if it was felt necessary to get full consensus. He also stated that beyond \$150,000 would be unsustainable in his opinion. After much further discussion a motion was made.

Chair Bickford made a motion to apply \$175,000 of the unassigned fund balance to the tax rate to reduce the tax rate. Selectman Anthes seconded the motion.

Discussion: Selectman Swenson felt there were serious issues such as those that came up at Town Meeting last year, i.e. police, levels of service, etc. which are not being considered. He also stated he is opposed to an excessive amount applied from the Unassigned Fund Balance which would not be sustainable. He clarified, however, that he is in favor of applying some funds from the Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate. Town Administrator Kinmond noted there are items that have not been funded at all

*New Durham Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 9, 2016*

but should be. There is a projected potential surplus of \$250,000, Selectman Anthes pointed out they are only arguing over \$25,000. Selectman Swenson noted there was no motion for the amount of \$150,000. **Motion passed, 2-1-0.** Selectman Swenson opposed.

Based on the worksheet used the tax rate is estimated to be \$5.07 per thousand dollar valuation for the Town operating portion and \$22.76 per thousand total tax rate excluding any special warrant articles.

Selectman Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Motion failed for a lack of second.

Selectman Anthes made a motion to adjourn. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Selectman Anthes made a motion to adjourn. Chair Bickford seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary

Final Approved 01-09-17