

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 11/29/04
Approved 12/6/04

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Don Gould called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. There were present, Emily Creighton, Selectwoman, Jon Rineman, Selectman and Michael Pardue, Town Administrator. Mr. Pardue served as the Recording Secretary for this session. Also in attendance was Ms. Peggy Neves, Tax Collector.

II. Selectmen Items

A. Setting of the Tax Rate

Mr. Gould provided an overview of the process as related to setting the municipal tax rate. Mr. Gould advised those in attendance at today's meeting that the Board had occasion to meet with Ms. Meg Baker of the Department of Revenue Administration on 11/22/04. The purpose of that meeting was to aid in the Board's understanding of the calculations that served to establish the tax rate and to determine the tax rate based on said calculations. Mr. Gould advised those in attendance that the new tax rate will be \$15.05 per thousand of assessed value as opposed to the old rate of \$12.72, an increase of \$2.33.

Mr. Rineman stated that since meeting with Ms. Baker of the DRA, he had some additional questions related to the tax rate computation. Mr. Rineman went on to identify the area he desired clarification on.

Mr. Pardue attempted to reach Ms. Baker without success, as a representative of the DRA would best answer the complexities of Mr. Rineman's question. Mr. Pardue was unable to reach Ms. Baker or any other DRA staff member at this time.

The Board decided to not set the tax rate at this time, choosing to await an answer to Mr. Rineman's question before doing so. With that decision, the Board elected to temporarily suspend this portion of their meeting until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 2004.

B. Holiday Party for Employees

The Board discussed their desire to host a holiday party for all Town employees during the times of noon – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 2004. The Board asked Mr. Pardue to aid in the coordination of this effort.

C. Proposed Budget Concerns

Mr. Gould expressed his great concern over the proposed increases he has seen in some of the budgets recently reviewed by the Budget Committee. He further cited that, as a member of the budget committee, he has had occasion to review some budgets that await full committee review and those too have proposed increases that he finds quite concerning given the increasing tax rate.

Mr. Gould further stated that he feels it important that the Board of Selectmen forward a letter to the Budget Committee asking that they remain cognizant of the “spiraling costs” reflected in many of the budgets being reviewed by them and the increasing tax rate that comes with those increased costs.

Mr. Rineman and Ms. Creighton echoed Mr. Gould’s concerns, especially in light of the increasing tax rate. Both Mr. Rineman and Ms. Creighton stated their support for a letter from the Board to be sent to the Budget Committee in which such concerns are stated.

Mr. Gould stated that he would draft a letter to the Budget Committee on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and would seek input / approval from both Mr. Rineman and Ms. Creighton prior to forwarding the letter to the Budget Committee.

D. Other Business

Mr. Rineman inquired about the “event sign” located in front of the fire station. He cited the fact that some of the information displayed on the sign becomes quite stale before new information is displayed, citing the fact that voter turnout statistics were displayed for a few weeks before new information appeared.

Mr. Rineman volunteered to be responsible for “sign ideas” and the display of messages on said board. Mr. Gould and Ms. Creighton thanked Mr. Rineman for his assistance in managing the sign display.

IV. Adjournment

Motion / Vote: Being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Rineman made a motion to suspend this meeting until 9:00 a.m. on November 30, 2004 at which time the Board is hopeful to have a reply from the Department of Revenue Administration in regard to the calculation of the proposed tax rate. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0. The meeting was suspended at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator