

Selectmen's Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2017

Town Office Building

Attending: D. Pierce, S. Bergeron, T. Fydenkevez, S. Patch

Others in Attendance: Assessors: M. Kowaleck, J. Kowaleck, and T. Foster-Admin Asst.

Behind the Camera: FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM.

The Board opened the FY18 Tax Classification Hearing. Ms. Foster gave a brief overview. Next re-valuation will be 2022. There's an increase in Personal Property which is up 9% due to site visits of businesses that needed to be audited and updating that information. New tax rate is expected to be \$15.00 pending DOR approval. Board of Assessor's continue to recommend single tax rate. Last year's tax rate was \$14.34 with the average rate last 10 years at \$14.10. Water District tax rate is down .01. Mr. Bergeron noted growth in all categories and how do we get to \$15.00 as noted by Ms. Foster by levy capacity. Mr. Bergeron thanked her for the presentation. Mr. Bergeron Motion to approve one tax class, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

Ms. Foster gave a follow-up presentation regarding GIS upgrades being explored with various departments in town for a state grant. Upgrades would include integrating online permitting software as well.

Veterans Day Ceremony went well and the Board has heard a lot of positive feedback for the event. It was suggested a 300th Anniversary Commemorative Coin be presented to the guest speaker which Dan Vandalsen will present. Mr. Vandalsen reported as the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Agent. The District is requesting towns pay their respective assessments as soon as possible. If the Town adopts the Veterans Program Work-off, the town will receive services of veterans as the Massachusetts minimum wage of \$11.00/hour. \$1,500 is reimbursable from the state but the town can determine their own limits. A town can have up to 20 positions is voted. This program has no impact on any other programs such as free first responder training and exposure to military hazards training. Mr. Fydenkevez noted the information would be on the website. Mr. Fydenkevez Motion to present 300th Anniversary Commemorative Coin to Veterans Day Ceremony guest speaker, Mr. Bergeron Second, Vote 3-0.

Mr. Vandalsen took the opportunity to thank FCAT for providing all audio equipment and recording the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Mr. Fydenkevez Motion Upper Pioneer Valley Agreement renewal for three (3) years, Mr. Bergeron Second, Vote 3-0.

Mr. Pierce noted the Personnel Advisory Committee met and reviewed comparable communities to revise the town's comp towns. The Committee will be starting with fundamentals of comp towns and agree to move to next steps for job description reviews. Granby was dropped as a comp town. Mr. Lacey agreed that of the 15 towns, periodic assessment of comp towns was necessary to review reasonable geographic areas.

Mr. Bergeron Motion to adopt comp town list as presented for a maximum of three (3) years and review at that time, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergeron Motion to accept Minutes of 09/25/17, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

Mr. Fydenkevez Motion to accept Minutes of 10/10/17, Mr. Bergeron Second, Vote 3-0.

Mr. Bergeron Motion to accept Minutes of 10/23/17, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

Mr. Bergeron Motion to accept Minutes of 10/30/17, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

UPDATES

- Mr. Bergeron reported the Capital Advisory Committee to review RFP's for Municipal Building Assessment and recommendations will be incorporated into the Capital Plan.
- Mr. Pierce spoke of the Personnel Plan last week.
- Mr. Fydenkevez offered congratulations to the Frontier Girls Volley Ball, Football and Field Hockey for advancing. He also thanked the Sunderland Congregational Church for their contributions to our community for 300 years plus the service and lunch for their 300th celebration events which took place a few weeks ago. He also noted the Senior Center in Deerfield is looking at housing or services in their congregational church as an option for the program.
- Mr. Pierce thanked the Police Department and Library of the successful Halloween Scavenger Hunt.

Ms. Patch announced a recommendation to award Arc Window for the window insert project for the Town Office Building for a total of \$25,637.24 which is covered under the Green Communities Grant. The company is ready to install in December, with the Board's approval of the recommendation.

Mr. Bergeron Motion to award to Arch Windows, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

Ms. Patch required health insurance premium quote from MIIA Insurance.

Mr. Bergeron Motion to declare surplus for the holder tractor and associated attachments and the 2003 Ford Crown Vic, Mr. Fydenkevez Second, Vote 3-0.

Mr. Bergeron wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Fydenkevez Motion to adjourn, Mr. Bergeron, Second, Vote 3-0 at 7:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherry Patch
Town Administrator