

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2008

Location: Upton Town Hall, Main Hall.

Present: Chairman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, Selectman Michael E. Goodwin and Administrative Clerk Karen L. Varney.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

At 6:31PM Chairman Fleming opened the Tax Classification Hearing and welcomed Board of Assessor Chairman Charles T. Marsden and members Glenn H. Fowler and Anthony W. Bonina. Chairman Marsden began the meeting by reading the legal notice duly posted in the Milford Daily news. He noted that the Tax rate recapitulation has not been approved by the State as yet. Chairman Marsden gave an overview of the figures on the recapitulation sheet. Local receipts totaled \$2.1 mil. The Assessors has recommended a single tax rate. He noted that the Board lowered the residential property values by \$126 mi dollars based on the market conditions. Land values were held. Last year the average home value was \$451,000.00 this year it is \$392,000.00. As a result when the values go down, there is a need to raise more money. The Board of Assessors is therefore recommending to the Selectmen, to accept a \$1.80 tax rate increase from \$10.63 to \$12.43 per \$1,000 assessment. The average tax bill will increase by about \$100.

Motion # 1: As recommended by the Board of Assessors, Selectman Picard motioned to maintain a Single Residential Class tax rate and to adopt the amount of \$12.43 per \$1,000 valuation for FY 2009. Seconded by Selectman Goodwin, unanimous by Chairman Fleming.

Chairman Fleming gaveled the Tax Classification hearing closed.

Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 21e in the amount of \$231,225.69 was approved.

Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 21P in the amount of \$61,993.70 was approved.

Discussion regarding the Town Accountant position due to the retirement of Bob Perkins. The Board is in agreement with making an offer to the top candidate, Fred Aponte.

43 Motion # 2: Selectman Picard motioned to make an employment offer to applicant Fred
44 Aponte, as the part-time Town Accountant for the annual salary of \$31,200.00.
45 Seconded by Selectman Goodwin, unanimous by Chairman Fleming.

46 The Board asked that Administrative Assistant Jim Bates draft an offer letter to
47 Mr. Aponte noting weekly hours and salary.

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49 FYI's reviewed:

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51 * Letter from Commonwealth of Mass: Re: Local 3338A

52 * Copy of a letter to the Town Clerk from Dept. of Agricultural Resources
53 Re: Dairy Farm Preservation Act.

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55 The Board had a brief discussion regarding the Noble Vista project and has
56 agreed to invite Mr. Fred Ruland to come before them on November 25th for further
57 discussion. The Administrative Clerk will contact Mr. Ruland.

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59 Selectman Picard noted that he is still waiting for another proposal for the Glen
60 Ave alarm project.

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62 Discussion regarding two request for use of the Town Hall. Selectman Picard
63 noted that any of the groups using the hall is with the understanding that the heat setting
64 remains at 50 degrees with no deviation. It was suggested that the groups contact
65 Michelle Leblanc at Blackstone Valley Tech and inquire about available space.

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67 Chairman Fleming updated the Board saying he had a conversation with
68 Pleasant Street resident Christine Corey who confirmed that her next door neighbor
69 (Robert Collari) has no problem with access and he will be submitting a letter to confirm
70 this. Chairman Fleming is waiting for a response back from Alfonso.

71
72 Chairman Fleming updated the Board on a general meeting he had this morning
73 at the DPW facility. He noted that a member of the DPW Advisory Board has been at the
74 DPW facility on a daily basis. In addition the Advisory Board members had access to the
75 DPW building to conduct a meeting. It is the general consensus of the Selectman, that
76 the members utilize other available facilities in Town for their meetings and not the DPW
77 building. Selectman Picard will contact one of the members to clarify this.

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79 Motion # 3: Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of November
80 12, 2008. Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Fleming.

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82 Motion # 4: At 6:59pm, Selectman Goodwin motioned to recess the meeting so the
83 Board can attend the Special Town Meeting at Nipmuc Regional Middle / High School.
84 The Board will adjourn at the completion of this Special Town Meeting. Seconded by
85 Selectman, unanimous by Chairman.

86
87 Respectfully submitted,
88 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk