

Members present: Kevin McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
Allen Phillips John O'Brien
Steven Quist

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and announced that the town skating rink at Mixer field is open and usable.

Public Hearing: Re: Classification Hearing in Conformity with M.G.L. Ch 40, §56 to Establish Local Property Tax Rate or Rates for Fiscal Year 2011

Mr. McCormick opened the public hearing and read the following notice. Notice is hereby given that the West Boylston Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 22, 2010, at 7:05 p.m. in Conference Room #1 of the municipal offices located on 127 Hartwell Street, in conformity with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56 for the purpose of holding a Tax Classification Hearing so as to establish the local property tax rate or rates to be assessed to each of the following classes of property for fiscal year 2011, the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011: residential property, open-space property, commercial property, and industrial property. All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend and participate. Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Town of West Boylston, advertised on December 16, 2010.

David Manzello of Regional Resources, our Regional Assessing Firm joined the Board. This is an annual exercise and every year the Board needs to decide whether or not the town should have a single tax rate or a split rate. The Board of Assessors recommend that we continue to tax all classes at a uniform rate. The projected tax rate is \$16.38, an increase of \$1.21 over FY2010. This will increase the average tax bill by \$68.20 per year. Residential values have decreased 5% this year, commercial, 2%, industrial 5.8% and personal property 2.1% for a total estimated reduction of 12.2%.

Mr. McCormick asked if anyone present had any questions. Hearing none, motion Mr. Phillips to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Rucho to adopt a uniform tax factor of 1.0, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor. Mr. Manzello noted that a 1.25 shift would result in a tax rate of \$20.48 for commercial, industrial and personal property and in this economy a split rate really hurts businesses.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Phillips at 7:12 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: January 5, 2011

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Steven J. Quist, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John J. O'Brien, Selectman