

Town Council Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2010

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, Vice President Calla, acting as President in President Turco's absence, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM in the Joseph Harvey Hearing Room.

Vice President Calla asked Councilor DeLvento to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Varone, Councilor DeLvento, Councilor Powers, Councilor Boncore, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Maggio, Vice President Calla were present. Vice President Calla stated that Council President Jeff Turco and Councilor Letterie were absent due to a prior commitment.

Vice President, Calla announced that this was a special meeting on the annual classification hearing for the tax rate process and noted it was a continuation of the December 14, 2010 posted Council meeting.

Public Comment

Allan Maruzzi, Chair Board of Assessors recommended a residential factor of 1.0 single tax rate.

Not hearing any more public comment, Vice President Calla asked if there was a motion on the recommendation.

Motion: by Councilor Powers to adopt a residential factor of 1.0 maintaining a single tax rate for residential, commercial, industrial and personal property.
2nd by: Councilor Sanford.

Vice President Calla asked if there was any additional discussion on the motion.

Councilor Maggio asked Town Accountant, Michael Bertino to explain how a 1.0 single tax rate would affect the residents so they would understand. Michael Bertino explained because we have 95.5% residential properties and 4.5% commercial properties in the town splitting the tax rate would greatly impact commercial property. The benefit for homeowners would be \$18-\$25.00 and commercial property would pay \$200-\$300 more. Councilor Powers noted splitting the tax rate would only benefit homeowners 6-7 cents. Councilor Boncore added that the value of single family homes decreased 6.2%, condos decreased 4.2% while commercial property values stayed the same. It would be a double hit for commercial property. Michael Bertino mentioned that we were talking averages.

With no other comment, Vice President, Calla re-read the motion and called to move the motion with a roll call vote. The roll was called, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice President, Calla stated the motion for a single tax rate is adopted subject to DOR approval.

Vice President, Calla entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilor Powerw

2nd by Councilor Sanford

All were in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM