

Selectmen Minutes 11/20/2017

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November 20, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Soter with all members in attendance.

Public Hearing – Tax Classification

Mr. Laviolette and Mrs. Cournoyer came before the Board for the annual tax classification hearing. Mrs. Cournoyer explained residential values have increased approximately \$8,000 on the average single family home over the past year. Mr. Laviolette presented a chart depicting the rate of various splits. He stated the current split is .89% and leaving it at this percentage would result in a 2.6-3.0 tax increase depending on the final certification by the Department of Revenue. Mr. Laviolette explained factors such as the overlay reserve will affect the final percentage.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board voted four in favor and Mr. Soter opposed to maintain the split at .89% and adopt the small business exemption. Under discussion, Mr. Soter stated he would like to see the split expanded to lessen the residential tax impact so he is voting in opposition.

On a Spencer/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to continue the hearing to November 29th at 6:30 PM at the High School Library.

Mr. Soter noted the Road Committee agenda item would be discussed during the Boards December meeting.

Mr. Fraine referred the Board to the ballot question relative to marijuana dispensaries that was developed by Town Counsel. He explained the Town must accept and consider license applications for marijuana dispensaries beginning April 1, 2018 unless zoning is adopted restricting the use. In order to adopt regulations, the Town must have a referendum question presented to voters; in the event the question passes, a Town Meeting must then approve the zoning change by a two-thirds vote.

Town Clerk, Ann Odabashian, stated the ballot question requires a 45 day posting and should be submitted within the next 30 days. Mr. Spencer questioned the cost of the election. Mrs. Odabashian stated it would be in the \$6,000 to \$8,000 range. All

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members agreed to pursue a Special Election for the first Tuesday in March and a Special Town Meeting the last Wednesday in March.

On a McNulty/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following abatements: water in the amount of \$96.68, sewer in the amount of \$401.10 and trash in the amount of \$187.89.

On a Spencer/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the November 6th minutes.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve a change of manager from Philip Berg to Scott Lannan at Douglas Wine and Spirits.

On a McNulty/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously approved the attached license renewals.

On a Martinis/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denis Fraine

Town Administrator