

November 29, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice Chairman Daniel Spencer with all members in attendance except for Chairman Michael Soter.

6:00 PM – Tax Classification Public Hearing

Mrs. MacKinnon and Mrs. Cournoyer came before the Board for the annual tax classification hearing. Mrs. MacKinnon explained the tax classification process and explained that the goal of this evening was to adopt a factor, adopt a percentage of small business exemption and to adopt an amount of exempt debt. Mrs. MacKinnon presented a ledger sheet depicting the rate of various splits. She stated the current split is .89% and explained shifting left would close the gap between commercial/industrial and residential and shifting right would put more of a tax burden on commercial/industrial properties.

Mrs. Cournoyer spoke about new growth for FY19 and reported that an average increase in both residential and commercial properties was up 7% and roughly 9% in industrial.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to continue the 10 % Small Business exemption.

Mr. Martinis and Mr. Connor made a motion to adjust the split from .89% to .92% with Mr. Spencer and Mrs. McNulty opposing. Under discussion, Mr. Connor stated with all things being equal on value he would support a .915% split. Mr. Spencer stated he would prefer to go to a .91% split. Mrs. McNulty expressed that she respected the process and the Board member's opinions but felt this vote was too random. Mr. Connor asked if there was any input from the audience as this was a public hearing to which there was none. Mrs. Cournoyer felt she would have no problem defending a .91 or .92 % split to the residents. Mr. Larry Sposato stated that whichever rate was decided upon he felt that it was important on how to present it to the residents. Mr. Martinis felt it was important to give small business a little bit of relief. Mrs. MacKinnon reminded the Board that this was an annual discussion and whatever was determined tonight would be readdressed again next year.

On a Connor/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted to move the current .89% split and adopt a factor of .91%.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to adopt a debt exclusion under Proposition 2^{1/2}, General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C (n), which allows the Town to transfer the recovery of water debt service costs from user charges to the property tax levy in the amount of \$740,000.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to continue the public hearing to December 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Arcand Meeting Room.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to award Contract 2018-LC, Bellingham Public Library Main Floor Carpet to the low bidder Atkinson Carpet and Flooring of Haverhill, MA in the amount of \$42,967.20

On a McNulty/Martinis motion, Board unanimously voted to appointment Mr. Glenn Moody, Mr. George Rezendes, and Mr. Gilbert Trudeau each for a 3 year term to the Cultural Council.

Mr. Fraine announced that the Town received positive results on its TTHM levels and the levels are now in compliance.

Mr. Martinis asked if licenses that have been approved by the Board could be stamped with a rubber stamp be made with their signatures. This is something we will look into for 2019.

Mr. Fraine requested an executive session pertaining to a discussion of Contract Negotiations. Members of the Board in attendance were polled with all voting in the affirmative. The Board will not return to open session.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM with no further business to be discussed at the conclusion of the executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hilarie J Allie
Administrative Assistant