

SELECTBOARD MEETING
July 11, 2019

Present: Allison Hope Nanette Rogers
Bill Cleary Greg Barrows

Guests: See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Road Foreman was not present therefore the Road Schedule was tabled until the next meeting.

ROVERS NORTH ADDITIONAL RECYCLING DUMPSTER

Mark and Calef Letorney met with the Board to discuss the charge for the additional dumpster needed at Rovers North for recycling material. They advised that Myers had requested that a second dumpster be used due to the difficulty of emptying the initial dumpster after the material is packed down. Myers did not have a larger dumpster to accommodate the amount of recycling generated by Rovers North, some of which is donated cardboard that they are unable to use. Mark feels that this is not something Rovers North requested but rather an accommodation that Myers wanted therefore Rovers North should not have to pay for the additional dumpster. Mark added that Rovers North is a local business that employs several residents. He pointed out that Rovers North pays a fair amount of property taxes and that the trash and recycling collection is the one town service that Rovers North receives.

Allison pointed out that when the Town elected to change haulers, there was an oversight with regard to commercial establishments in Westford. Nanette pointed out that after the switch, there were a few things that came to light that Gauthier had been providing residents/businesses that the Town was not aware of. Allison is open to finding a solution that is amenable to the Town and Rovers North through the remainder of the contract period, which ends June 2020. Bill volunteered to contact Myers to discuss the issue.

Bill Cleary made a motion for the Town to pay the additional fee for the second dumpster while the Town tries to resolve the issue, seconded by Allison Hope. Motion passed: 2-0.

CUB SCOUT REQUEST TO CAMP ON TOWN PROPERTY

Kevin Stockwell was present to discuss with the Selectboard a request for the Cub Scouts to camp on the Town property adjacent to the school. The Scouts would like to use the area above the lacrosse fields. Tents would be pitched and there would be a camp fire. The date of the camp out is August 10th. Scouts will be earning the astronomy badge. Kevin could not say how many Scouts will be camping out. The Scouts also plan to ask the Rec Dept. if they can use the portolet located at the school.

Bill Cleary made a motion to approve the Scouts request to camp on the Town property adjacent to the School providing they can provide a Certificate of Insurance listing the Town as an additional

insured, obtain a burn permit for the camp fire and receive authorization from the Rec Dept. to use the portolet, seconded by Allison Hope. Motion passed: 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from a resident asking that the intersection of Old #11 Road and Cambridge Road be mowed due to poor visibility. The Road Foreman will be contacted to discuss the email and what can be done.

FY'2020 PROPERTY TAX RATE

Greg provided a breakdown of the tax rates (see attached) and explained the different components. The Town and Highway tax rates are based on the budgets approved by the voters, less anticipated revenue and a \$35,000 from the Contingency Fund. The Local Agreement rate is based on reports from the Grand List for those with exemptions. This information is put in the computer which then calculates the tax rates based on the Grand List.

The proposed tax rate is \$0.704. This is \$0.0032 higher than the estimated tax rate provided to the voters in March.

Bill Cleary made a motion to set the town tax rate at \$0.3576, the highway tax rate at \$0.3437 and the local agreement tax rate at \$0.0061, seconded by Allison Hope. Motion passed: 2-0.

The State set the residential education tax rate at \$1.5082 and the non-residential tax rate at \$1.6597. The residential tax rate is \$0.0148 higher than the FY'19 rate and the non-residential is \$0.0516 higher.

When the education tax rates are added to the town, highway and local agreement rates, the total residential tax rate becomes \$2.12156 and the non-residential becomes \$2.3671.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Hope, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator

TOWN OF WESTFORD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
GUEST LIST

Date: July 11, 2019

Name (please print)

Address

Kevin Stockwell

53 Learned Drive

Calef Letourneau

465 Old Ft 11 Rd.

MARK LETOURNAU

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