

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectman convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in Room 34, the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with the Pledge of Allegiance, and silent moment of prayer/reflection.

Present: Chairman Paul A. Bishop, Selectmen William J. Plasko, Allan D. Howard, Thomas F. Maloney, and David E. Hajjar. Also present General Manager Tony Mazzucco and Clerk Christina Mulvehill.

#### Appointments

##### 6:00 P.M. – Executive Session

Motion made to enter into Executive Session for the following:

Purpose 3: “To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares” and

Purpose 6: “To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.”

And to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion made by: Selectman Howard

Seconded by: Selectman Hajjar

Roll Call Vote: Those in favor: Selectmen Plasko, Howard, Maloney, Hajjar and Chairman Bishop.

Motion passed.

##### 7:00 P.M. – P.H. Tax Rate for FY 2020

Board of Assessors Chairman Timothy McDonough introduced the other members of the Board, Robert Thornton and James Grover and thanked them for their work year round. Property values and new growth were discussed. Mr. McDonough gave an overview of the process by which the tax rate is set. He starts with the tax levy which is the amount that has to be raised by taxation as a result of all the actions of Town Meeting throughout the year and divides that by property values, resulting in the single tax rate, with not shift to commercial. The levy amount of \$ 84,268,324 divided by the real estate property values would equal a single tax rate of \$14.78. The override has had an effect on setting the tax rate. In FY 2019 before the override a single tax rate would have been \$14.17, adding in the override created a \$14.78 single tax rate. The historical tax levy analysis shows the increase during the last five years has been pretty consistent, with 2015 being 4%, 2016 3.7%, 2017 4.2%, 2018 4.0%, and 2019 3.2%. If there had been no override, it would be an increase of about 4%, which is historically about average. The impact of the override created an additional levy of approximately 7.9%, for a total impact of 11.9%. This number is reached by starting with the prior fiscal year levy, add in the 2.5 %, utilize the new growth, and also add in the impact of the override which was approximately 8.1% increase in the levy. And these three numbers add up to the 11.9% increase. Every nine years the assessor is required to review and inspect every property in town and this year they picked up a tremendous amount of new growth that they did not have on their books previously, such as decks, porches, pools, finished basements, etc. Additional new growth included Moderna, the condominiums on Endicott Street, Wendy's and BJ's gas station. The new growth amount was \$ 1,849,602 which was almost double the previous year, but is also an anomaly and won't happen again. Of that new growth amount, \$ 994,720 was used to balance the budget, leaving the unused new growth at \$ 899,881. The shift was discussed. Historically commercial properties have picked up almost double what the residential rate has been. Last year the Board shifted up to \$22.82 for commercial and \$10.89 for residential. Mr. Thornton pointed out the current positive trend in the values of real estate in town. He referred to a document given to the Board by Mr. McDonough on May 7, 2019 when they asked about the projected increase in the average residential tax bill as a result of an override, which was actually 11.8%. Mr. McDonough added that by not going to the maximum on the levy, the Board is already taking that first step of not overburdening the taxpayer. On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to close the hearing. On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to utilize a shift factor of 1.68.

Tax Rate for FY 2020-(cont'd)

Mr. Thornton spoke briefly saying last Tuesday he was sitting at home with his popcorn and hot chocolate watching his favorite show and at the end of it there was a horrendous announcement at the end of it by one of his favorite people, Mr. Howard who dropped a bombshell that he would not be running for reelection. Mr. Thornton went on to state that Mr. Howard has served twenty one years between Finance Commission and Board of Selectmen during which time they went to many a war together, and he would take him into a foxhole any day and he thanked Mr. Howard for what he did for the town.

New Business

Water/Sewer, Electric and Cable Liens:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to approve the Water/Sewer, Electric, and Cable Liens as presented for submission to the Town Treasurer.

Neponset River LLC dba Sheraton Four Points Norwood:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, vote to approve change of manager application from Kevin Casey to Raymond Prescottano.

Alex Murphy, Project Manager, HNTB Corporation:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file as information notice regarding Stormwater Improvements along Route 1 & Interstate 95.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard voted to sign:

Lillian E Sergii, 139 Hill Street to Lot C3-124

Olivia P Munro, 54 High Street, Walpole to Lot C3-117

John D Randall, 78 Nahatan Street to Lot SGW-3

Unfinished Business

ABCC:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file as information final approval for change of manager application for Lewis Restaurant and Grille Inc., from David W. Kelley to Giuseppe Tropeano.

Aws Aws, 18 Plimpton Avenue #2:

Selectman Hajjar spoke with the applicant for Class II Dealer License and this would be strictly wholesale. On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted 4-1 to approve the application with the two initialed changes. Selectman Plasko opposed.

Combined Facilities:

Selectman Plasko expressed support in moving in this direction and inquired about proposed new positions and the dollar amounts associated with those. Mr. Mazzucco said the increase for the Director's salary would come from the General Government budget for the first fiscal year. On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to approve Shared Facilities MOU. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to dissolve as of January 15, 2020 Town Wide Facilities Committee established by this board years ago as it is no longer necessary.

Memoranda

James F. Collins, Light Department Superintendent:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file monthly report.

Mark Ryan, DPW Director/ Town Engineer:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file monthly report.

Building Inspector Mark Chubet:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file November Report.

Selectmen's Minutes:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted 4-0 to approve as written meeting minutes from September 3, 10, and 17, 2019. Selectman Hajjar abstained.

Manager's Update

Luminary Night was this past Saturday and as usual was a tremendous event. This past Thursday evening there was a Christmas Concert at the Norwood Theatre and special thanks to Judith Howard for that.

Selectman Plasko

Personal Privilege

Our former colleague Helen Donohue often would pay tribute to local residents who did something wonderful and noteworthy and call attention to it during this part of the agenda. Former town resident Tricia Plasko Campbell, my daughter, was announced to be the Assistant Principal of the Year for the State of Maine by the Maine Administrators Association. As her father I am very proud of her for her great success in her field.

Selectman Maloney

Parkway Concert Orchestra

Annual Holiday Concert on Sunday December 15, at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Maloney, and on roll call vote of Selectmen Hajjar, Howard and Chairman Bishop, voted to reenter executive session and return to open session for adjournment only.

Adjournment

Returning to open session with no other business to address, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:15 p.m.

A True Record

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_