

Special meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 4 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2015 in Room 34, the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building. Meeting is Recorded.

Present: Chairman Paul Bishop, Selectmen William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Michael J. Lyons and Allan D. Howard. Also present Clerk Frances L. Jessoe and Assistant Christina Mulvehill.

Appointments

4:00 P.M. – Cont'd P.H., Tax Rate for FY 2016
(cont'd from December 8, 15, 18, 2015)

Chairman Bishop explained that Tuesday December 15 the Board had a public hearing to address the tax levy for FY16 and some complications came up. Chairman Bishop turned the meeting over to the Chairman of the Board of Assessors.

Mr. McDonough stated that he asked for this meeting to give the Board a final update from the Mass. Department of Revenue regarding setting the FY 16 tax rate. He said that after Tuesday's hearing he submitted the Board's original tax rate shift request to the Department of Revenue and it was rejected by the state as too great a shift according to our new assessed values. While it is theoretically possible in a particular tax year the state would allow you to shift up to 175% that was not the case this year for Norwood as determined by the Department of Revenue. On Wednesday he submitted a formal request to allow us to have a greater shift than we are allowed for FY 16 and that was rejected again by the Department of Revenue as not allowable. As a result the largest possible shift for the residential tax rate that would be allowed would be a shift from residential to commercial of 52%. This would result in a residential tax rate of \$11.12 per thousand and commercial of \$21.70 per thousand. He said that these figures are lower than last year, however, as he explained to the Board on Tuesday, some property values will see an increase and some will see a decrease and this is a direct result of the valuation that was performed this year on all properties and these values show increases and decreases depending upon location, design as well as varying property styles. Mr. McDonough stated that this is why the Board is here to request that the tax rate be set today so the tax bills can be sent out by the end of the year.

Chairman Bishop inquired as to the recommendation. Mr. McDonough stated that the recommendation is 52% which is the maximum the state will allow the town to go.

Chairman Bishop stated that this is a public hearing and he inquired if anyone would like to speak as he did not see anyone from the public in attendance who would like to speak. There was no one in attendance who wished to speak.

Selectman Plasko said last Tuesday the Board did forget to close the hearing which has allowed us to clear up this problem with the state in a timely manner so therefore on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to close the public hearing.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve the shift as recommended of 52%. The vote was unanimous. Chairman Bishop said the shift will go to 1.52 versus the previous 1.61. Chairman Bishop thanked Mr. McDonough for all his work.

Adjournment

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 4:05 p.m.