

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
December 1, 2021 - 9:00am**

In Attendance: Chair Mark Townsend, Vice-Chair Sarah Hewins, Robert Belbin, Jen Bogart & Jim Hoffman, Interim Town Administrator Rick LaFond & Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston.

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the community prayer.

Tax Classification Hearing:

Motion to open hearing by Hoffman, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Board of Assessors members Ellen Blanchard and Michael Paduch present.

Blanchard gave an overview of the calculation of the rates. The levy limit is set by the Town Accountant setting the budget, actual receipts are reported, and estimates the anticipated receipts for the new fiscal year. Other estimated receipts include: Cherry sheets, enterprise funds, community preservation funds and free cash. The levy limit is the total taxable valuation times \$25.00 per \$1,000 of value.

There are 5 classes of property tax: Residential, Open Space, Commercial, Industrial & Personal Property. These are divided into two 'groups': Residential and Open Space and Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property.

The levy has been determined at \$28,983,207. The residential & open space have a total valuation of 83.6094% & the commercial, industrial and personal property has a total valuation of 16.3906%.

The Board of Assessors would like to reduce the residential and open space rate to a reduction of 2.5% from the current 145% that has been preferred by the Select Board for the last 3 fiscal years.

Paduch stated he wants to be fair. He stated the 145% shift is unheard of in this state. Paduch stated every year there is always something causing extra financial stress on the town. He stated that this year there is less tax burden on the town and there is an opportunity to change the shift which would be less than a \$35 impact. He would like to see the town take a big step in the right direction.

The tax rate at 142.5% would be a rate of \$16.08.

Belbin asked how this tax rate would affect new property values. Hewins stated that the Board doesn't set the rate, they set the split. Blanchard stated that valuations will probably continue

to rise. LaFond stated these values are applicable as of the fiscal year 2022 took place in 2019. LaFond stated this tax rate is applied to a home value as it existed in Jan. 1, 2020.

Paduch stated the tax rate itself is a backwards function. They start with the levy and back into the number.

Open Space Discount:

Motion by Belbin to not accept, second by Hoffman

Vote 5-0

Residential Exemption:

Motion by Hewins to not accept, second by Hoffman

Belbin asked how many parcels are seasonal. Blanchard did not have an exact number and stated that some are landlord owned and some are homes on the ponds. Belbin asked if they receive the exemption then what is the shift. Blanchard stated the tax rate would be shifted to those that qualify under this.

Vote 5-0

Small business exemption:

Motion by Belbin to shift the small business exemption, second by Hoffman

Blanchard stated that there is no value in this for the small business owner as they are mostly tenants, not the property owner and the landlord would benefit, not the small business.

Vote 1-4 Motion fails (Bogart, Townsend, Hewins, Hoffman)

Motion by Hewins not to approve, second by Hoffman

Vote 4-1 (Belbin)

Motion by Hewins to classify the tax rate at 1.45%, second by Hewins.

Vote 5-0

Annual Licenses:

Motion by Hewins to approve all 2022 licenses contingent upon all taxes being paid and for entertainment licenses upon inspection by Fire and Building Commissioners, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Interim Town Administrator applicant interview dates: December 15 beginning at 10:00am and an alternate date of December 16 beginning at 10:00am.

Eligibility for interim to apply for permanent position: an opinion was obtained from counsel. The TASC felt they may have had more applicants if the incumbent interim was not applying for the position.

Hewins stated the opinion states there is no way to physically prevent someone from applying for the position.

Belbin stated it is in the best interest to let applicants know that the posting is for an interim, not a permanent and we are looking for someone just to cover us during this period of time.

Hewins stated she would not like to limit the Town's possibilities and it could be likely that the Town could get an interim that the Town likes.

Bogart reiterated Hewins' sentiments, however, this should be made clear that this does not mean the contract would be extended.

Next Meeting: 12/7/21 at 6:00pm

Select Board Community Announcements:

Bogart: Hoffman: None

Belbin: Thanked Ellen Blanchard for helping out the Town. Reminded people to wear hunter orange when going into the woods.

Hoffman: Wished everyone celebrating a Happy Hanukah and thanked Ellen Blanchard for her work.

Hewins: Thanked Ellen Blanchard for her work in the Assessor's office.

Townsend: Wished everyone celebrating a Happy Hanukah and thanked Ellen Blanchard for her work.

Select Board notes:

Motion to adjourn by Belbin at 9:53am, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0