

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Approved Meeting Minutes
Working meeting
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Swampscott, MA 01907

Attendance: *Chairman, Naomi Dreeben, Vice Chair, Laura Spathanas, Selectman Don Hause, Patrick Jones, Peter Spellios, Town Assessor John Spiedal, Town Treasurer and Assistant Town Administrator Ron Mendes, and Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald.*

Members of the Board of Assessor's were present: Linda Paster, Tasia Vasiliou, Neil Sheehan.

Resident Comment:

Resident Tasio Vasilio spoke on dog waste being a problem in Town around the Clark School and Phillips Park specifically, mentioned the Dog officer only available during emergencies, looking for some direction and how to have this addressed.

Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald, spoke on this being a Public Health Issue, it was mentioned that a Girl Scout Troop from Town is planning in the future to do a public relation program to bring awareness and education on this issue, will speak to Swampscott Police Chief Madigan to see what can be done on this issue.

Selectman Spellios does not think that the Police Department should be the enforcer or controlling this, citation should be given out to anyone who violates not picking up dog waste, asked where the Health Director is and what is the Health Departments take on this subject. Selectman Spellios spoke briefly on donations that were given by the dog park group to the Town of dog waste bags.

Selectman Dreeben spoke on spot checking and education.

Open Discussion: *FY 17 End of Year / 2019 CIC Process / FY 19 Budget Presentation 2017 Town assessing Update & Classification.*

Town Assessor, John Speidel spoke on the following:

- *Small Business and what they are eligible to apply for / tax relief.*
- *Feeling confident in reval figures sent to the Department of Revenue.*
- *Two family homes only can apply for an exemption if one of the units is where the reside.*
- *Commercial property normally would apply for abatements if only a small amount taken off taxes.*

Town Treasurer & Assistant Town Administrator, Ron Mendes spoke on the following:

- *Senior exemption programs/ \$400 each year / widow exception / Veteran's exemptions*
- *Comment period before tax bills go out -will be notice on website.*
- *State of New Hampshire cannot have a split rate.*
- *Condo's do get a bigger tax break.*

Selectman Spellios questioned 9051-single family tax rate.

Selectman Jones asked about small business exemptions.

Selectman Spellios interested in reducing tax rate @ 1.75 would like to explore decreasing or how to decrease tax rate-suggest 1.7.

Selectman Spellios suggest the Board to look at all properties -Mr. Fitzgerald would like the Board to receive the list of all properties in Town.

Selectman Spellios asked what rate the taxes are increasing in value for single family homes.

Selectman Spellios requested an analysis be done on commercial tab bill history.

Selectman Spellios asked how union contracts would play into the budget.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald, could not give assurances on contracts but believes some adjustment would need to be done.

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator spoke on the following:

- *Tax rate*
- *Levy limit*
- *Department of Revenue reviewing figures /acceptance of revals.*
- *Abatement Programs -Hanover Project / Landing Project possibly will apply.*
- *Assisted living centers do get tax breaks.*

Town Meeting discussion:

Selectman Spellios spoke on a having Town Committee reports done at the special Town meeting, suggest having time for an open hour dedicated to questions / answers on Town Finance and Tax Rates- Selectman Spellios asked the Board if they had any thoughts on this suggestion, suggestion was made to have a Board member speak on Town projects.

Selectman Jones inquired about the Zoning Board of Appeals taking consideration on their decisions that would affect commercial taxes.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to close meeting, seconded by Selectman Hause.

True Attest:

*Maureen Shultz,
Administrative Assistant*