

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 28, 2018
Swampscott, MA 01907

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Laura Spathanas, Chair Peter Spellios, Vice Chair Pat Jones, Selectmen Hause, Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald, Town Treasurer Ron Mendes

Pledge of Allegiance 7:08

No Resident Comment

CHAIR REPORT

Idea Exchange Dec. 1st this Saturday at 10 a.m. Discussed the breakout groups- and invited everyone to attend and bring their views and ideas.

Thanked the Town Hall Staff for volunteering at my Brother's Table.

Motion to move into Public Hearing by Pat Jones, seconded by Laura Spathanas all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Public Meeting

- *Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of Swampscott that the Board of Selectmen will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Swampscott High School, 200 Essex Street, Swampscott, Massachusetts in Room B208 at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting for all parties interested in a request from National Grid for the following petition/ request:*
 - *Plan # 27148429 Arbutus Road- Swampscott, MA National Grid to install beginning at a point approximately 10 feet South of the centerline of the intersection of Arbutus Rd. and Magnolia Rd. and continuing approx. 7 ft. in a South direction. Customer at 12 Arbutus Road is requesting a tree guy in their yard be removed. National Grid is requesting to install anchor and guy fixture in sidewalk to replace the tree guy. Mike Cardina from National Grid was present to describe the work he would be doing. Gino Cresta, Director of Public Works stated he visited the site and agrees that it needs to be removed. Peter Spellios asked where the pole will be relocated and there was a discussion on ADA clearance when it is relocated. Both neighbors agreed to have the pole relocated straddling their property and no action needs to be done by the BOS because it is now not on the sidewalk, but on their property.*
- *To the residents of the Town of Swampscott, notice is hereby given that pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, the Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, in room B208 at the Swampscott High School, 200 Essex Street, Swampscott, MA for the purpose of discussing the various options available to the town concerning the so called FY 2019 Classification of Real and Personal Property according to its use and the possible adoption of local levy percentages among the various classifications. This hearing is open to the general public and those interested persons may at any time of the hearing present their views orally, or they may submit in writing their views on the subject either prior to or at the time of the meeting.*

Ron Mendes gave an updated power point presentation on the Tax Levy from 3 weeks ago.

Terry Worber- Swampscott Resident- voiced his support on the Residential Exemption to make Swampscott more appealing to young families.

Selectmen Spellios stated increased in assess value is what we want to see. He also stated he would like more discussion outside of assessing season to understand how assessing is set in different neighborhoods.

Discussion on Small Business Exemption:

There has been no feedback that it's made a difference, but don't want to minimize and want to continue to bring in small business and support them.

Need hard data to see how this is working.

John Speidel said overall, it's a good program.

Possibly develop a working group amongst all to assess the value of this program.

There was an increase on the amount of businesses taking advantage of the program- continue to look at the trend.

Selectmen Spellios recommending maintaining this program in FY19, but send letters to the properties and let them know what the exemption means to them.

Discussion on Residential Exemption:

High assessed value does not speak to someone's means.

Not enough information on this point to know impact of the shift.

Requesting more data in the future to understand.

Discussion on CIP Split:

Support in keeping the split.

The split help to support commercial businesses, but not burden our residents.

Given we have actual real data, it is easier to support the shift.

Four Motions to Vote on:

Motion made -that the Board select a Residential Factor of: 0.946775 (a CIP shift of 170%) for the fiscal year 2019 Tax levy; and in order to affect this policy, the board hereby authorizes Sean Fitzgerald, TA, to electronically sign on behalf of the BOS on the MA dpt of revenue's gateway system.

Motion made- to move that the Board choose to not adopt a Residential Exemption for FY 2019

Motion made to move that the Board adopt a small commercial exemption of 10% of the value of qualifying parcels.

Motion made to request that the Swampscott BOA vote to release 400K from the Overlay Account

Motion made by Selectmen Jones to accept all 4 counts above, motion seconded by Selectmen Spathanas, all BOS members unanimously in favor.

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

Spoke regarding the amazing Dog Park that is 15,000 sq ft. SPOT supports the pooch pass and suggested we implement the program.

Jen, Lynn and Joan from Spot walked the BOS through how Salem implements the pooch pass. Money from the pooch pass helps maintain the dog park and make improvements to the park.

Discussion was had on fees, having this with dog license.

Motion made to move forward and have the TA implement a pooch pass in the amount of \$25 and work on warrant article on revolving account and bylaw changes necessary. Motion accepted by Selectmen Jones and seconded by Selectmen Spathanas all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Jackie Kinney was in attendance from REACH ARTS and gave a power point presentation on what Reach Arts is about.

Reach Arts provides a place for citizens and artists to perform and being a space to celebrate and support not only the body, but the mind and soul as well.

Discussed operational goals including operational staff, facilities management/maintenance, grant writers, add diversity and expertise to BOD, non- profit operations, fundraising and board education.

Outlined general annual operating revenue.

General capital revenue with annual fundraising, donor levels, giving Tuesday, end of year appeal.

Outlined Rental Rates 2019-2020

*Building program
Showcased art exhibitions generating excitement and sales
Discussed 5-year capital investment schedule*

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

*Request for a vote to transfer application for an Annual Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License of Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC d/b/a Bertucci's Brick Oven Ristorante ("Bertucci's")
Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from October 29, 2018, and November 7, 2018
Request for a One- Day Beer and Wine License for the Library paint night on November 29, 2018.
Request for a One- Day Beer and Wine License for Reach Arts for a private party on December 15, 2018
Motion was made by Selectmen Spellos to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Selectmen Spathanas the BOS was unanimously in favor to approve.*

Town Administrator gave a week in review along with department head updates.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

No Selectmen Reports

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:25 by Selectman Hause and second by Selectman Spathanas, all BOS members were unanimously in favor.