

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Swampscott, MA 01907

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

Pledge of Allegiance 7:04

No Resident Comment

CHAIR REPORT

Idea Exchange Dec. 1st is on its way. Thank you to the volunteers for being facilitators. One session will be for kids by kids. Laura Spathanas will work with me on Outreach and planning of event. There will be 6 Breakout Groups. Selectmen Spellios give a quick recap of what the agenda will be.

Thanks to SPOT, and DPW the dog park is progressing. At the next meeting there will be a proposal on moving forward to implement the pooch pass. The proceeds from the pooch pass will support the upkeep of the park.

NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

Ron Mendes reviewed the presentation of the Values and Recap Tax Rate. The presentation is available on The Town Website.

The Tax Classification hearing will be on November 28th.

Single Family – 6 additional homes- the value is up 4.9 %

New Condos- 48 additional- the value is up 9.2%

Assessor John Speidel was in attendance to answer questions.

BOS asked questions regarding the huge drop in commercial bill for 2018- there will be a follow up to the BOS. There was a discussion regarding the Peer Group- some peer groups are Rockport, Winthrop, Georgetown and North Reading. Using this tool will be very helpful.

Board needs to vote on if they want to adopt a residential exemption.

Board adopted last year the Small Commercial Exemption.

John Speidel will follow up on recommendation to the BOS regarding the overlay.

Question on the decrease of personal property in Tax Bill- there will be a follow up to the Board.

There was a discussion on the tax levy guideline that was voted on 10/29/18. In the guidelines it was agreed that:

- No more than a 2% tax levy increase year over year*
- Will be \$425,000 a year in new growth*
- 0 dollars of free cash to offset the tax levy*

Financial team provided us with a 10-year financial forecast.

Sean Fitzgerald gave a Review of 1st Quarter Budget and Revenue

Revenue:

Property Taxes at just over 11 million.

Local Receipts \$798K

Motor Vehicle Excise \$198k

Meals Tax - \$74k

State Aid- just over a million

Total Revenue-just over 13 million

Expenses:

Town Expenses- Just over 11 million

Selectmen's Budget- just over 4K

Finance Committee- \$210

Accounting- \$67k

Assessor's- \$46k

Treasurers- \$180k

Town Counsel- \$22k

Liability Ins.- \$408K

HR- \$167k

Technology- \$203K

Town Clerk- \$44k

Facilities- \$37K

Police- just over 1 million

Fire- \$810K

Building - \$46k

Insert the rest

DPW- \$315k

BOH- \$258K

Animal Control- \$600

Council on aging- \$27k

Veterans- \$12k

Library- \$187k

Recreation- \$42k

Debt Service - \$853k

Employee Benefits- just over 6 million

Expenses at 35% at the 1st quarter

Revenue is at 23% of estimated receipts

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

Selectmen Dreeben moved to approve the consent agenda below and Selectmen Spathanas seconded all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

- *Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2018-*
- *Request for a vote to change the Manager for the Swampscott Yacht Club*
- *Request for approval of Swampscott Pizza and Grill Common Victualler's Licenses (change of owner)*
- *Request for a vote to approve the 8th Annual Chabad of the North Shore Run-a-latke Family Fun 5K and Chanukah Party*

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

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Selectmen Dreeben attended the Affordable Housing Trust meeting and is happy with the good work on structuring the fees. They have lots of questions for the BOS and will be speaking with Town Administrator.

Selectmen Jones attended first School Building Committee meeting and it was a very positive meeting.

Selectmen Spellios thanked numerous private donors and Gino Cresta for the lights at Phillips park.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:40 by Selectman Jones and second by Selectman Spathanas, all BOS members were unanimously in favor.