

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Swampscott, MA 01907

Attendance: Chairman, Naomi Dreeben, Vice Chair, Laura Spathanas, Selectman Don Hause, Patrick Jones, and Peter Spellios, and Interim Town Administrator, Gino Cresta.

Public Hearing / FY17 Tax Classification Hearing:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Hause to open public hearing pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, for the purpose of discussing the various options available to the Town concerning the so called FY 17 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, seconded by Selectman Jones. Roll call vote was taken.

Public Comment by Mr. Bill DiMento inquiring about the commercial tax rate versus the residential rate. Mr. Dimento spoke on sustainability being the issue speaking on the police cost, schools cost, questioned why the Town is maxed on the commercial rate compared to surrounding communities.

Selectman Spellios asked John Spiedal, Town Assessor for a breakdown of all new businesses in the future.

Selectman Jones suggested commercial business evaluations would be good information to include in the future.

Selectman Dreeben inquired who the industrial companies are in Town was –Aggregate Industries is the only one in Town.

Selectman Dreeben asked how is the analysis of property is done –Patriots property does them for the Town.

New Growth- Hanover Project-was spoken on regarding revenue for the Town.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spellios to close the public hearing seconded by Selectman Jones. Roll call vote was taken.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spellios to approve the residential tax rate at \$17.45 and \$32.20 for commercial, and approval of the following items, determination of residential exemption up to 20% , determination of discount factors of up to 25% for all land classified as Open Space, potential adoption of small business commercial tax exemption and adoption of a residential factor for the purpose of determining the percentage tax burden to be borne by each class of property , seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

Open Discussion / Update:

Chief Breen updated the Board on a fire at 100 Galloupes Point / Kitchen fire/ no injuries.

Selectman Spellios asked Chief Breen for an explanation of the protocol of what happens at a fire and who gets notified as far as Departments/ Officials.

Chief Breen spoke on contract negotiations with Atlantic Ambulance and the upcoming expiration on December 31, 2016 of the housing lease agreement-The Board took no action at this time.

Selectman Spellios spoke on the Machon Ground Lease and Land Development Agreement and will continue the dialogue at the next meeting of Board of Selectman.

Appointment:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones on the recommendation of Chief Breen of the Swampscott Fire Department to appoint Michael Salsgiver as a permanent full time firefighter conditional upon successful completion of a medical physical, a psychological examination and completion of the HRD physical agility test, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

Boards & Committee's updates and appointments.

Selectman Hause will be speaking with Ben Franklin of the Historic District Commission on future appointments to that Board.

Selectman Spellios spoke on the resignation of ten year member of the Zoning Board of Appeals Harry Pass and thanked him for his service and time he has dedicated to the Town.

Selectman Spellios spoke of a future meeting to be held with members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Department heads to have an overview of the Town by Laws.

Upon the recommendation of Selectman Spellios the Board voted unanimously a motion was made and voted on unanimously by Selectman Spellios to appoint Emily Stuart and Ron Landen to the Zoning Board of Appeals as associate members both to expire on June 30, 2018, seconded by Selectman Hause.

Selectman Spellios recognized and thanked the Swampscott Reporter for keeping the public informed of openings on various Boards and Committee in Town.

Vote of the Board:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to authorize Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectman on the Massachusetts Department of Revenues Gateway System, Seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

Town Administrator's Report:

Gino Cresta, Interim Town Administrator spoke on the following:

- *Recognized and thanked the Department Heads for attending Town Meeting.*
- *Thoughts and prayers were spoken of for Employee Lianne Belkas who is battling some health issues.*
- *Update on water Main Project.*
- *Thomson and Elmwood Road gas line project was spoken of.*

New & Old Business:

Selectman Dreeben spoke on the upcoming schedule of Selectman's meetings with meetings being held every other week and will now be back at the Swampscott High School in Room B129- No vote was taken.

Selectman Spellios spoke on tax classification, new growth and the Master plans and the setting of Town Priorities including the DPW Facility on Paradise Road for possible new use in the near future with Gino Cresta, DPW Director exploring ideas and returning back to the Board within 90 days with some options.

True Attest:

*Maureen Shultz,
Administrative Assistant*