

October 25, 2017 9:00AM Selectmen's Meeting

Present: Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn, Danielle Fillio

Don welcomed everyone.

He congratulated Terri Iemolini, the Town Clerk on her certification.

Don announced the Halloween Parade on Friday the 27th at 6PM.

Terry made a motion to appoint Jorja Marsden to the Historical Preservation Committee. Chuck seconded, all were in favor.

Don made a motion to award the surplus bid for Engine #3 to JSSJR Enterprises Inc., Village Truck Sales of Lanesboro, MA for \$7,290.00. Terry seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Michael Blay, Town Assessor, said that this year was a recertification year and that everything went fairly smooth and on time from the set up schedule.

This was the classification hearing. Mike said that the Board would be voting on keeping a single tax rate; a residential factor of one instead of splitting the tax rate.

Michael continued that there has been no new growth in commercial state. The proposed tax rate is \$9.76; six cents higher than last year.

Another motion would be on residential exemptions and small commercial exemptions. Residential exemption is for single family, owner occupied homes. Only 700 parcels qualified for up to 20% off of the average assessment which is calculated at \$93,070 off. It would shift the tax burden onto the second home owners and anyone above the average assessment. This creates a split tax rate. The Board of Assessors recommends a no vote on this.

The small commercial exemption would only pertain to a business with less than 10 employees and the property owner benefits. This would create another shift.

The State provides them with a small business list and the Town has 9 parcels. The Board of Assessors recommends voting no on this also.

They are hoping to have tax bills out by November 1st.

Jay Bikofsky, the Finance Committee Chair, complemented Michael, Nancy and the Board of Assessors.

Don made a motion to keep a residential factor of one. Terry seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Don made a motion to vote no on residential exemptions. Terry seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Don made a motion to vote no on small commercial exemptions. . Terry seconded, the vote was unanimous.

Next on the agenda was the Stockbridge Tourism Committee. Margaret Kerswill, small business owner of Mutability in Motion, said that they were looking to the Board for feedback and the go ahead with Municipal signage as presented in the spring. They came up with municipal directional signs for downtown businesses that list only the businesses on those streets; Maple, Elm and the Muse. They also recommended Cultural orientated directional signs that would go on Elm, Pine, and Church Streets, to replace current signs which are not formatted well nor having consistency.

Don asked if the local signs would come down and be replaced and it was confirmed. Barbara Zanetti said that the Town would erect and maintain the signs and the business would purchase the signs on a first come first serve basis. Her suggesting was to start with the Elm, Church and Pine Street signs. She also stated that the Town would need to make it their own, design an application and come up with fees.

Terry asked if the Planning Board had any input and it was replied that it all falls under the Select Board.

Chuck asked about the removal of current signs even if they chose not to purchase space, such as for the Marion Fathers, and Margaret said that the Town would have them removed and it is there choice to purchase space.

Jay Bikofsky asked about the signage to include businesses on side streets.

Terry asked if all the Chamber members are aware of the proposal and Barbara said that they were aware that they are working on it. He also questioned the "first come first serve" basis. Margaret said that each sign would hold eight signs which should be sufficient. Danielle said that she will need to ask Ray if the Town can differentiate in the policy, as in the bylaws they do not differentiate between the cultural orientated and municipal owned signs. Her other question was about the fees and Barbara said that they were a onetime fee, plus the fee of their own sign and that the Town would maintain the overall sign and each business would maintain their signs. The Town can remove any signs that are not maintained. The current municipal sign bylaw would stay in place and a policy would be enacted by the Board. This will all be run by Ray for approval.

Margaret updated the Board on the recycling bin discussion and said that they did not make stickers for the bins as the Town does not sort the recyclables from the garbage. With research they found that no one separates recyclables out of garbage. Don agreed to start out and see how it goes. Barb said that

Len would need to order the cans and the funds could come out of the Tourism Committee. Don said that it would need to be checked on. Danielle said she would talk to Len to see where he gets the cans.

Don next discussed the status of the Town Collector position and said that they have hold off until November 6th as it is the end of the posting period. The next step would be to appoint an interim Collector and they currently have two candidates; Christine Gorretti and Karen Williams. The tax hearing is completed and the tax bills will go out. Don suggested to hold open November 8th for a possible extra meeting if needed.

With no further business Don made the motion to adjourn, Chuck seconded, the vote was unanimous.