

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 9, 2018
7:00 PM
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Don Chabon, Chuck Cardillo, Terry Flynn and Danielle Fillio

Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

Don announced that the Highway garage was starting to come down, the algae situation at the Lake is gone, and all articles passed at the Special Town Meeting. Don noted that Gene Talbot resigned from the Planning Board and the position is open. Don listed the upcoming meetings as: October 17th at 9am, November 7th at 9am, November 19th at 7pm, November 28th at 9am, December 10th at 7pm and December 19th at 9am; a reminder that November 6th is Election Day.

Approve Minutes:

Don made a motion to approve the minutes of September 5th, September 12th and the Executive Session of September 18th. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

Agenda:

Tax Classification Hearing

Michael Blay, Town Assessor, stated that this was the annual tax classification hearing and gave an overview of how tax rates are set. Mike said that the Board of Assessors was recommending that the Select Board keep a single tax rate; a residential factor of one instead of splitting the tax rate; estimating a proposed tax rate of \$10.20; 44 cents higher than last year.

The Board of Selectmen would also be looking at residential exemptions, open space discount, of which there is no open space class, and a small commercial exemption. Residential exemption is for eligible single family, owner occupied homes. It would shift the tax burden onto the second home owners and the higher rate would apply to ever. This creates a split tax rate and the Board of Assessors recommends a no vote on this. The Board of Assessors also recommends voting no on the small commercial exemption. Michael explained the process of setting the tax rate.

Don made a motion to vote to keep a Residential Factor of one and not to adopt the residential exemption or Small Commercial Exemption. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

Rest of River Mediation Update:

Steve Shatz as Town Representative to the Rest of the River Committee explained that they are a part of a mediation process to determine how much contaminated sediment is removed from the Housatonic River and find solutions as to where the removed sediment is to be trucked and deposited.

Don made a motion to accept the PLLC Mediation Agreement as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the town. Terry seconded; all were in favor.

Award Bid Stump Dump Capping:

Don made a motion to award the bid for the capping of the stump dump to D.R. Billings of Lanesboro, MA in the amount of \$65,870.00. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Report on Traffic Study:

Juliet Locke, Traffic Engineer of VHB Engineering lead the traffic study and presented the findings for downtown. She discussed three possible conclusions and recommendations after investigating existing conditions, traffic demand, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, streetscape conditions and safety and crash analysis. Also discussed in the study was signage, lack of parking, lack of ADA compliance with crosswalks and lighting.

The South Street – Main Street intersection is listed as a high crash location and on the Mass DOT radar. The analysis of the study favors the implementation of a roundabout at the South Street – Main Street – Pine Street Intersection; not interfering with the cat and dog fountain or soldier’s monument. It also recommends the Town implement safety improvements along Main Street. At the intersection of Main Street -East Street – Vine Street a T-intersection is recommended to minimize roadway confusion which currently exists.

Following discussion, Juliet reviewed the recommended next steps.

Don thanked Juliet and noted that the report would be posted electronically on the Town website.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Don made a motion to adjourn. Terry seconded; all were in favor.