

2018 - Minutes of December 5 Meeting

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 5, 2018

6:30 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Bernie Fallon (BF), Chair; Peter Skorput (PS); Doane Perry (DP). Also present: AdminAsst Mark Webber (AA). No press present.

6:35 PM: BF opens the Annual Tax Classification Hearing for fiscal year 2019. Present are the 3 elected members of the Board of Assessors (Michelle Laramée, Susan Lupo and Ed Sporn), the Board of Assessors' Clerk (Mary Stodden) and Jeffrey Reynolds (JR) of Regional Resource Group. JR gives a presentation laying out the process, timeline and actions taken to date which are required to set the town's annual tax rate (handout attached). It is noted that the town's Excess Levy Capacity or the amount which could be raised through property taxation without hitting the levy limit is \$1,387,419. This enviable position ranks W. Stockbridge 7th out of the 351 municipalities statewide in terms of levy capacity as a percent of maximum levy allowed (23%). JR notes that the purpose of tonight's hearing is for the Board of Selectmen to choose a single or split (separate commercial and residential tax rates) tax rate. Historically, West Stockbridge chooses a single rate because a split rate would place an onerous burden on its small amount of commercial businesses. JR concludes his presentation by stating that he expects the Dept. of Revenue to approve the Town's paperwork within the next few days and that the tax rate is anticipated to be exactly the same as last years', at \$12.13.

PS makes a motion to adopt a single tax rate for fiscal year 2019. DP seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

BF closes the annual tax classification hearing and thanks the Board of Assessors and staff for their efforts.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Board reviews and acts on the Town's 6 annual liquor license renewal applications. AA reports that the Town Collector has confirmed that all license holders are current with taxes and fees. AA notes that there have been no violations or any negative reports issued against any of the license holders during the past 12 months. Following a disclosure statement that he is the property owner where one of the liquor license renewals is held by a lessee (Public Market), BF recommends approval of all renewals.
- Board reviews a list of unregistered autos found on residential properties. Over the past month, the West Stockbridge Police have compiled a list of unregistered vehicles on non-licensed properties. BF notes that the Town's Junk Car bylaw, adopted by Town Meeting and approved by the Attorney General back in 1971 prohibits any unregistered vehicle and parts thereof on residential property. BF adds that the Selectmen have conducted a review of commercial auto license holders over the past year and that it's been decades since a review and action has taken place on residential junk cars. Board has a general discussion on notification/procedure/fines/timing and expects to finalize actions in the near future.
- Board discusses upcoming meeting schedule and decides to meet next on December 26th. AA notes that the FinCom will be holding a meeting on December 7th at 3:00 PM and that Board members are welcome. The focus of the FinCom meeting will be a capital planning discussion.

8:10 PM: There being no further business to come before the Board and no questions/comments from those present, DP makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Bernie Fallon, Chair

Peter Skorput

Doane Perry

Date: _____