

Selectmen's Meeting
December 2, 2013
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the 2nd floor meeting room, Town Hall. Members present were: Margaret Serpa, Chairman; Arthur Smadbeck; and Michael Donaroma. Also present was Ms. Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator.

At 4:00 pm Chairman Serpa opened the meeting and the advertised public hearing on the allocation of the property tax levy for FY14. Present were the Board of Assessors and Joanne Resendes. Ms. Serpa read the notice aloud.

Mr. Alan Gowell spoke for the Board of Assessors and stated that they would like to recommend all 4 categories of taxes have a factor of 1. This means they will all have the same tax rate.

Mr. Smadbeck asked about the total assessed value of town.

Ms. Resendes stated that she expected it would be down 1% or 2%.

There being no public comment, Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the tax rate to have a factor of 1. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Gowell added that there was additional good news. 1) That they had appealed the State's assessment of the State Forest and had been granted to retain the value of \$128 million instead of the new value of \$100 million. This meant \$175,000 more to the town than if they had not appealed. 2) That the Appellate Tax Board had sided with Edgartown on all 18 cases appealing assessments.

Ms. Serpa thanked the Board of Assessors. She then opened the Advertised Public Hearing for the FY14 Regional CDBG Grant. Present was Alice Boyd of Bailey, Boyd, and Associates, CDBG Administrator for Edgartown. Ms. Serpa read the notice aloud.

Ms. Boyd went over the benefits of the CDBG grant and that they will continue to apply for up to \$1 million.

The Board thought it was a terrific program. There being no public comment, Mr. Smadbeck moved to submit the application for Edgartown and to authorize Ms. Dolby to sign it. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then moved on to the next item which was the annual review for Ms. Barbara Prada, Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that she does a fabulous job.

Ms. Serpa stated that she had no complaints.

Mr. Donaroma stated that they rely on Ms. Prada.

Ms. Prada added that she had been working with the town's emergency services to create a pet friendly shelter in the cases of emergency, such as hurricanes and snowstorms. They were accepting donations of animal crates if anyone had any extras.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to give Ms. Prada a favorable review. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Ms. Jane Varkonda, Conservation Agent.

Ms. Varkonda stated that the Tates have gifted two tiny parcels near the crab creek to the Town. The Conservation Commission is asking the Board to accept them.

Mr. Donaroma asked if this issue needed to go to Town Meeting.

Ms. Varkonda stated that she had spoken with Town Counsel and that was not necessary.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to accept the gift of land. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized that there were a lot of people in the audience. She thought they may be present for the Aquaculture License renewals.

Ms. Dolby stated that they had received a letter from a lawyer of one lease holder requesting not to renew another lease holder. She stated that this issue needed to be brought to the Shellfish Committee. The Shellfish Committee would then decide the appropriate form of action and whether the issue required a public hearing in front of the Selectmen.

Mr. Smadbeck then moved to approve the Aquaculture License Renewals of: Jason Bennett, Ryan Smith, Nicholas Turner, and Daniel J. Donnelly. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then approved the following items:

A One Day Liquor License for Backwater for their Christmas in Edgartown Event.

A One Day Liquor License for Donaroma's for their Christmas in Edgartown Event.(Mr. Donaroma abstained.)

Ms. Dolby stated that Lattanzi's is being sold and there are issues with the liquor license. She is trying to figure it out and will have more the following week. She asked the Board to allow them to close for one week until it can be figured out. The Board voted to make it so.

At 4:30pm Mr. Smadbeck moved to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and not to return into public session. Mr. Donaroma seconded. A rollcall vote was held where all voted aye. Unanimous.

Approved:

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant