

Selectmen's Meeting
December 4, 2017
4:00 pm

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

At 4:00pm Mr. Smadbeck opened the meeting and the first item on the agenda which was the public hearing for the classification of the tax rate for FY18. Present was the Board of Assessors: Alan Gowell, Larry Mercier, and Donna Goodale Cavallo. Also present was Assessor Joanne Resendes.

Mr. Gowell stated that the Board of Assessors recommend a classification of one for all types of properties. This is what they have done for many years.

There being no comment, Mr. Smadbeck closed the public part of the hearing. Ms. Serpa moved to approve. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck asked what the tax rate would be and what is the total value of town.

Mr. Gowell replied that the tax rate would be \$3.87/\$1,000 of assessment. This is up \$.32 from the previous year. The total value of our quaint seaside village is \$8.2 billion.

The Board thanked the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Smadbeck then opened the next item on the agenda which was a Public Shade Tree Hearing for the removal of two trees at 42 S. Water Street. Present for the owners was Cammie Naylor. Also present was Tree Warden Stuart Fuller. Mr. Donaroma recused himself from the hearing and excused himself.

Ms. Naylor stated that they would like to remove to swamp oaks and replace them with something more ornamental that would grow under the wires. She was thinking of Zolcovia as a replacement.

Mr. Fuller recommends and supports the removal and replacements.

Ms. Serpa moved to approve the removal and replacement of the trees by June 30, 2018. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then recognized Mr. Paul Pimentel from Vineyard Power.

Mr. Pimentel was asking for the Board's support for Vineyard Powers's application for an offshore windfarm. He handed out informational pamphlets and gave a presentation.

The Board voted to refer the request to the Marine Advisory Committee as they had done with the one previous request they had received.

Mr. Smadbeck then recognized Dukes County Sheriff Ogden.

Sheriff Ogden requested to place an article on the Town Meeting Warrant. He handed out a draft of the article.

Mr. Smadbeck took note that the amount requested was greater than the amount when the county ran it before the state took it over. He doesn't understand why one segment is now more than the total budget.

Sheriff Ogden tried to explain it as inflation and that they have been working in a deficit.

Mr. Smadbeck asked for other examples of towns that have subsidized the communication centers.

Sheriff Ogden replied that he could not provide anything comparable.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that this was a state agency looking for the town to subsidize it with no oversight by the town and no say.

Sheriff Ogden replied that they were providing a service to the town.

Mr. Smadbeck asked what the total budget was.

Sheriff Ogden was unsure. He thought it was about \$900,000. He referred to his financial person Peter Grisikowski seated next to him.

Mr. Grisikowski responded that the Comm. Center is \$864,000 with a grant of \$180,000.

Mr. Smadbeck asked how previous years had been paid.

Mr. Grisikowski explained that the department is given one amount which is distributed among everything they do. The lockup and jail come first. The system is no longer sustainable and they have deferred repairs.

Sheriff Ogden then added that his department also does court processing and drug prevention. It also provides vocational training of High School Students.

Ms. Dolby asked why he wanted to put this on the backs of the three down island towns. This is a service that is needed by all the towns.

Sheriff Ogden replied shortly that he “got it” and there needed to be a formula that works for everyone.

Mr. Smadbeck asked where was the state accountability.

Sheriff Ogden testily asked back where was the solution.

Ms. Serpa stated that she was reluctant especially at this amount and with no control.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the previous administration indicated they didn’t need funding. “Now Surprise?!?” He suggested asking for particular capital improvements instead of operation.

The Board then approved the new contract for Acting Chief Dolby.

Ms. Dolby explained that they need to hire the assessment group. They will set up the process. They will review the applications and create a shortlist of recommended applicants for the Board to assess.

Mr. Peter Look, concerned citizen, wanted to know about the timeline and the process.

Mr. Smadbeck explained that would be up to the assessment group.

Mr. Look wanted community involvement.

Mr. Donaroma stated that in the past it was up to the Board. They have a great force and they do a great job. The Board is just looking for outside professional help in making the right decision.

Mr. Look had concerns with conflicts of interest.

Ms. Dolby responded that everyone has consulted with Town Counsel and filed the needed paperwork. This group will be a separate outside group. The Board may suggest community involvement.

The Board then approved the following items:

For the Wharf to close for winter repairs from 2/19-3/15.

The Board received a letter from Backyard Taco apologizing for closing early for the year.

Highway Superintendent Stuart Fuller then gave a Meetinghouse Rd. update. Each segment was 1200ft. and they were almost halfway done. Each segment has to have extensive work done. The asphalt plant will close shortly, but the Highway Department will continue to prepare the road to be ready for it to reopen on or about April 15th. Hopefully the town will be first on the list.

At 5:04 PM Mr. Donaroma moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous

Approved:

Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

Michael J. Donaroma

Margaret E. Serpa
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant