

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman
Brinsley A. Fuller, Vice-Chairman
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate
Matthew V. Moore, Associate

In attendance: William J. Phelan, Town Administrator
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Gordon, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING:

Present: Members of the Board of Assessors:
Daniel Lee, Chairman, William Marble and Vincent Digiacommo
Gary Brennan, Principal Assessor
Pamela Holt, Administrative Assistant/Assistant Assessor

MOTION: At 7:05, by Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Sheehan, to open the Fiscal Year 2013 Tax Classification Hearing

VOTE: 5:0

The hearing notice, which was published in the newspaper, was read. Mr. Brennan thanked the department heads who have helped in the process of preparing for this meeting. He explained that the 3-year revaluation of all properties in town is complete, and the fair market value of all properties as of January 1, 2012 has been certified, based on the sales in 2011. Overall, there has been a 0.48% increase in total value, and new growth was higher than it had been projected. Currently, the shift is 1.69. If the shift is left at 1.69, there will be a slight decrease in the tax rate for FY13. The Board of Assessors recommends the 1.69 shift, which would result in a residential tax rate of \$18.11 and a commercial, industrial, and personal property tax rate of \$34.96.

Mr. Phelan explained that the town is not increasing the tax levy by 2 ½ per cent as allowed by law. The town will take in less taxes than last year, and lower the taxes to the property owners. Local receipts are up and expenses are down slightly.

Mr. Gordon discussed the town's free cash, which was recently certified at \$1.2 million, and is a huge improvement from last year. It is anticipated that the funding will be deposited in the stabilization fund. Mr. Phelan said that the unusually storm-free winter left funding in the snow and ice account, some debt went off the books, and the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen held the line on expenditures, all of which helped free cash.

Kevin Costa, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, cautioned the Board that there is \$480,000 of excess capacity of the tax levy that will be gone if taxes are not raised. Mr. Phelan explained that more information is available on local receipts at this point in the year, and the cherry sheet and new growth figures, which increased revenues by \$200,000, are known at this time.

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MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Moore, that the Board of Selectmen vote to classify the Town of Holbrook under the Classification Act at a factor of 1.69 for Fiscal Year 2013

VOTE: 5:0

It was noted that the setting of the tax rate is subject to the approval of the Department of Revenue.

Mr. Brennan discussed the Residential and the Small Commercial Exemptions, and advised that the Board of Assessors voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen vote not to adopt them.

MOTION: By Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Sheehan, that the Board of Selectmen vote not to adopt the Residential Exemption or the Small Commercial Exemption for Fiscal Year 2013

VOTE: 5:0

MOTION: At 7:44 pm, by Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. McGaughey, to close the Tax Classification Hearing

VOTE: 5:0

ADJOURN:

MOTION: At 7:45 pm, by Mr. McGaughey, second by Mr. Fuller, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 5:0

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk

Documents:

Agenda

Tax Classification packet from Assessors

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