

*TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH*  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
December 3, 2013

Members Present: Mark Sullivan, Chairman  
Lorraine Brue, Vice Chairman  
John Gray, Clerk  
Ginny Coppola  
James DeVellis

Others Present: Acting Town Manager Bob Cutler  
Assessor Hannelore Simonds  
Board of Assessors Thomas Buckley, Robert Hadge, Michael Laracy  
Finance Director Randy Scollins

The meeting was brought to order at 7:15 p.m. by Mark Sullivan, Chairman. Chairman Sullivan reviewed the agenda.

**Action Item**

A donation has been received for the Conservation Commission from Pacella Disposal for a dumpster and disposal of up to 5 yards of materials for the removal of the garage at 120 Spring Street.

A motion to accept the donation of a dumpster and the removal of materials for the Conservation Commission from Pacella Disposal was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Ms. Brue. The motion carried 5-0-0.

**Tax Classification Hearing**

Mr. Gray read the Public Hearing Notice.

The Board met with Finance Director Randy Scollins, Assessor Hannelore Simonds and members of the Board of Assessors for the annual Tax Classification hearing.

The Board needs to decide whether to maintain the split tax rate or return to a single tax rate.

Mr. Scollins explained that there are four tax classifications, one for residential and three for businesses (commercial, industrial and personal property). This is the earliest date that this meeting could be held as the state just certified the values in town last week. The third and fourth quarter tax bills need to be sent out by the end of December and will be due on February 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. DeVellis had a procedural question that since the information was just received tonight, can the Board take some time to review the information. The Board of Assessors met last week and tonight, their recommendation was made at tonight's meeting. There were no values until the amounts were certified by the state.

Mr. Scollins stated that if the vote is delayed, the tax bills will not get out by the end of the year as the Department of Revenue needs to review them before they can be sent out, this could take from one day to a week. The information is then sent to a third party billing company to be sent out. If the bills are sent out after December 31<sup>st</sup>, the February 1<sup>st</sup> due date will be lost as they are due 60 days after they are sent out. This will result in a loss of cash flow to the town as no interest could be charged. Notices would also need to be sent out which would add additional costs to the town.

Mr. Gray would like time to digest the information but understands the importance of the deadline.

Mr. Cutler stated that the hold up has been the waiting for the state to submit the required information.

Mr. Scollins reviewed his prepared information which shows the implications of keeping the split tax rate or returning to a single tax rate. It was noted that property values for Commercial properties fell by 7%.

Mr. Buckley, the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, stated that his Board recommended by unanimous vote to maintain the CIP shift from last year of 1.1031 due to the reduction of commercial property values of 7%. This rate can be voted on every year.

Mr. Gray asked if there are any trends towards businesses getting better.

Ms. Brue feels that the current split will keep it balanced as returning to a single tax rate would result in an 11% difference.

Ms. Coppola is usually not a supporter of a split rate but feels that this would be good to make it more equitable.

Mr. DeVellis also prefers a single rate but feels that the reasoning for the split rate makes sense. He hopes it will adjust back in the next two to three years.

Resident Dennis Naughton feels that it should be a shared burden which maintains fairness to all, residential includes rentals as well as property owners, which includes people who have received cuts in federal aid. Small businesses drive the economy and he hasn't heard of any businesses coming or going since the split rate was introduced.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Ms. Brue. The motion carried 5-0-0.

A motion to set the tax rate for FY 2014 by adopting a residential factor of .967329 following the recommendation of the Board of Assessors was made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Ms. Brue. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. DeVellis voting against the motion.

Mr. Sullivan noted that he was informed that A.J. Dooley's father has passed away and extends his condolences on behalf of the Board.

A motion to adjourn the meeting to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and to return to regular session solely to adjourn was made by Ms. Brue and seconded by Mr. Gray. The motion carried 5-0-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:20 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray

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John R. Gray, Clerk