

Select Board meeting minutes November 28, 2011

Select Board members present: Bill Martell, Linda Michaud
Select Board members absent: Ed Martin

Others present: David Goldin (Board of Assessors), Lori Krikorian (Town Administrator), John Trickey (Finance Committee)

Open

Selectman Martell opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Tax classification hearing

David Goldin was present. No residents or other members of the public were present. Mr. Goldin stated that the Board of Assessors had met and recommends the Town accept a unitary rate, which is the same rate for all as for residents. Selectwoman Michaud moved that a single rate for all classifications of real property be accepted, Selectman Martell seconded, unanimously approved.

Minutes

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Acceptance of the minutes was tabled due to the absence of Selectman Martin.

Photovoltaic zoning by-law proposed change

The Select Board members reviewed Energy Committee responses to Attorney comments of the draft and would like to meet with Energy Committee to develop a clean draft to send to the Planning Board. There was a general discussion regarding the time line requirements in order to put the proposal to Annual Town Meeting. The Select Board will meet with Energy Committee as soon as possible.

Hampshire Council of Governments – municipal solar program

The Select Board reviewed correspondence from the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG), who are working on vetting and eventually hiring solar photovoltaic vendors that towns and cities within the HCOG could contract with for these services. In order for the potential vendors to get a sense of the scale of the potential commitment / revenue, the HCOG is asking for energy usage information (a one year summary) and utility rate schedule for its member towns.

Selectwoman Michaud voted to provide the HCOG with the requested information, Selectman Martell seconded, unanimously approved.

Tree Warden – report of violation by Pelham resident

Dave Hawkins (Tree Warden) stated that a resident on Harkness Road has removed three trees without going through the required hearing process, that the resident stated that they had them removed because the trees were damaged during the recent storm and was concerned that they would damage his house, though he was aware that he should have first contacted the Tree Warden. Mr. Hawkins stated that Mass General Law allows for fining for such violations and the resident has offered to plant three trees to make up for those that were removed. Mr. Hawkins stated that he is asking for guidance from the Select Board of how to proceed realizing that a precedent would be set with regard to response to such violations. Selectman Martell replied that he is not comfortable with fining the resident and suggested that the resident have the stumps removed at his expense and plant three new

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trees that are acceptable to the Tree Warden, Selectwoman Michaud agreed, moved, seconded, unanimously voted. The Tree Warden will send a letter to the resident and the Select Board will send a letter to the tree company who did the work, noting the law and cautioning them about such in the future.

Liaison reports

DPW – Selectman Martin – no report

Town Offices – Selectman Martin – no report

Energy Committee – Selectman Martell – no report other than what they have already discussed at this meeting

Finance Committee – Selectman Martell – they met, discussed five-year plan and goals, and discussed Library Director salary increase, Mr. Trickey stated that the Library Trustees will match the Town side COLA for the Director and continue to do such going forward.

Selectman Martell stated that a chipper and generator should be considered for the capital equipment and expenditures schedule; Mr. Trickey reported that the extra money Pelham is receiving from the State should cover the \$20,000 approved by Fall Town Meeting for the Police budget

Fire Department – Selectman Martell – nothing to report

Police Department – Selectman Martell – submitted monthly reports

Library – Selectwoman Michaud – at past meeting discussed programs

School Committee – Selectwoman Michaud – no report

Old Business

Storm

Selectwoman Michaud stated that the Town's emergency response teams did a great job, they do need additional tools to do their work and the Town will look at options for a new chipper

Adjournment

On a motion by Selectwoman Michaud, seconded by Selectman Martell, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:40pm.

Documents reviewed by the Select Board

Draft of as-of-right siting by-law proposal

Correspondence from HCOG re municipal solar program

Police Department monthly reports