

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 8, 2012

At 6:30 p.m., Chairman James P. Dawley, Jr. called the meeting to order with members Joseph M. Melican and Carol Lisbon present. Also present were David W. Ramsay, Town Administrator, and Greer Pugatch, Assistant Town Administrator.

ATTENDANCE: Karen MacTavish, Town Assessor; Charles Long, Bonnie Akins, Caroline White, Board of Assessors; John Cone, Warrant Committee

PRESS: Sarah Freedman, D-S Press

Tax Classification Hearing - Assessors

Mr. Dawley opened the annual public hearing to determine the percentages of the local tax levy for Fiscal Year 2013 for the Town of Dover. A notice of this hearing was published in the November 1, 2012 edition of the Dover-Sherborn Press. Charles Long, Caroline White and Bonnie Akins of the Board of Assessors were present along with Town Assessor Karen MacTavish, who spoke on their behalf. Mrs. MacTavish highlighted tax rate options and exemptions, including 1) single-rate versus different residential/commercial rates, 2) open space discount, 3) principal residence exemption, and 4) small commercial exemption. The Board of Assessors recommended continuing with a single tax rate for Dover as the most fair and equitable choice.

Mr. Dawley moved to set a single tax classification rate for Fiscal Year 2013 with no other exemptions, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Reserve Fund Transfer – Treasurer/Collector

A settlement needs to be memorialized between the Board of Assessors (BOA) and Verizon. An agreement will be crafted between Verizon and the BOA, to be signed by both parties. The Town Assessor will ensure that the agreement is taken care of in a timely manner. See the Reserve Fund Transfer agenda item which follows for further details.

Dr. White stated that the Board of Assessors greatly appreciated the Selectmen's willingness to accommodate the BOA on this, so that tax bills can be gotten out in a timely fashion.

Renewal of Annual Package Store & Club Liquor Licenses

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the 2013 annual Liquor License for Avatar, Inc. dba Higgins Wine & Spirits and for the George B. Preston, Post 209, American Legion, subject to the Legion receiving its Certification of Fire and Safety, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Award Washed Sand Bid

The Annual Washed Sand Bid opening was on November 1. Three bidders qualified. Of the 3, the low bidder was S. M. Lorusso & Sons of Walpole.

Mr. Dawley moved to award the Washed Sand Bid to S. M. Lorusso & Sons, Inc. of Walpole, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Other Business:

Town Report

The Town Report Committee is ready to move forward with the Town Report, and would like the Selectmen's Office to send out a memo regarding this. The Town Report Committee will send out the instructions and templates on November 16, 2012.

Prior Notice - Highway

The Selectmen thanked Craig Hughes, Superintendent of Streets, as well as the Highway Department employees and Public Safety personnel for a tremendous job during Hurricane Sandy.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve the Prior Notice from the Highway Department to cover expenses which occurred during Hurricane Sandy, in the amount of \$3,074.81, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Reserve Fund Transfer – Treasurer/Collector

In FY2009 State's Commissioner of Revenue opined that cities and towns in Massachusetts could tax poles and lines owned by Verizon. Verizon then filed for abatements in each town where that occurred. The Courts overturned the 2009 opinion this past spring. The Tax paid by Verizon is going to be returned, along with accumulated interest based upon an 8% statutory interest rate, by November 16, 2012.

Mr. Dawley moved to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer subject to Verizon and the Assessor's memorializing agreement to the Treasurer/Collector in the amount of \$16,605, subject to the final dollar figure being obtained; seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Approve October 25, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dawley moved to accept the meeting minutes of October 25, 2012, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Christmas Eve

Mr. Dawley moved to close the Town House on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2012, seconded by Mr. Melican; it was unanimously voted.

Citizen's Comments

Mrs. Lisbon noted that Election Day had an incredibly high turnout. Barrie Clough made a great recommendation to open the polls at 6:00 am, which helped with lines and waiting, as did three lines for poll check in. Thanks to Barrie Clough, Felicia Hoffman and all election workers for an outstanding job.

Adjournment

Mr. Melican moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Joseph M. Melican, Clerk