

Selectboard Minutes Special Meeting

Monday August 24th 10 AM via Zoom conference

Present: John Ogden, Andrea Ogden, Michael Jeffery, Chrystal Cleary , Lori Langevin

Meeting called to order at 10: 03 AM

Item #1: Andrea Ogden, serving as Interim Delinquent Tax Collector tendered her resignation from that office, which the Selectboard voted unanimously to accept.

Item #2: Treasurer Andrea Ogden introduced and nominated Lori Langevin of 58 Vt Rte 11 in Landgrove to the office of Delinquent Tax Collector. Motion to appoint Lori Langevin to the office of Delinquent Tax Collector to serve until Town Meeting 2021 was made and seconded, and Mrs. Langevin is officially appointed! Welcome, Lori!

Item #3: Treasurer Andrea reported the delays at the Fed and State trickling down do delaying the determination of the tax rate for 2020, which is even further complicated /delayed by the extra duties surrounding our Town's reassessment this spring. Homestead declarations are filed with people's income taxes (usually April 15th, but this year, July 15th) and at the best of times there can be confusion and delays surrounding this process, especially when filers file for an extension (due dates get extended, but homestead declaration does NOT and as a result can be forgotten. Andrea makes a Motion to waive the financial penalty usually applied for late Homestead Declaration for this tax year. The motion is approved.

Item #4 Setting the tax rate. Andrea makes the Motion that the Selectboard approve the Municipal Tax Rate, comprised of the General Fund and Roads Fund tax rates for 2020 (**please see attached chart**) Discussion: Michael Jeffery asks why the General Fund is up 25% over last year's rate.

2019 Roads Tax Rate billed should have been 0.1739. Billed rate double counted GF rate. Rate of change using actual number is -12%.

2020 Rate increase largely attributed to a decrease in non-tax based income including PY surplus and an increase in expenses

including creation of fire truck fund, increase of lister stipend due to reappraisal, and Community Club 4th of July insurance

All voted in favor of approving the Municipal Tax Rate of 0.2418.

Item #5: Extending the Tax Due date, and "If/Then" proposal. State Emergency Covid 19 declarations allow for the Selectboard to extend the Tax due date if necessary this year. Andrea proposes a Motion: If the Town does not receive the Education Tax Rate number from the State Dept of Taxes before Friday August 28th, then the Seelctboard will move the Due Date to November 1st 2020.

Discussion: The town does have enough cash to pay its bills for the extra month if the deadline is extended. Delinquent Tax Collector Lori asks if the deadline is extended, will the Town notify the BRSU (school district) that the school payment will be late? Andrea responded that she has been in touch with Sue Wilborn at BRSU about this possibility and that the Town should be able to pay for some of the School payment on time, just not all of it. The SelectBoard approved this conditional policy for this year.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:33 AM

*note: The Treasurer received the Education Tax Rate from the state later that day, making the due date extension in Item #5 moot. The final numbers are reflected in the attached chart. Bills will be generated and mailed later this week and the due date remains October 1, 2020.