

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
November 21, 2016 -- 7:00 PM  
Sanford Hall, Town Hall  
155 Village Street

Present: Glenn Trindade, Chair; Richard D'Innocenzo, Clerk; John Foresto, Member.

Absent: Maryjane White, Vice Chair; Dennis Crowley, Member.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator; Allison Potter, Assistant Town Administrator; Mary Becotte, Communications Director; Donna Greenwood, Principal Assessor; Carol Pratt, Finance Director; Bob Weiss, Energy Manager.

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At 7:00 PM Chairman Trindade called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Rosemary Smith, 19 Charles Street, identified herself as a former teacher, mother, grandmother and retired. She expressed concern for the safety of youth and the many activities they have that can cause injuries and fatigue. We have a responsibility for their health. Our youth need to have fun. Ms. Smith stated she would like to see something for them to look forward to such as a dance or a talent night where they can have fun and interact. These kinds of activities are part of important socialization and untapped resources are retired citizens as they are willing to help.

Ms. Smith indicated that she would like the Town to offer a swimming program for families in the summer with all levels of youth with swimming lessons. Perhaps the Town could build a pool where they could learn Red Cross Lifesaving. Kayaking and canoeing could be done at Choate Pond and the Charles River.

Additionally, she urged for the incorporation of use of the MakerSpace into high school programs.

Overall, children need to have fun growing up with face-to-face communication.

**Hearing – Fiscal Year 2017 Tax Classification:**

*The Board reviewed the following information: PowerPoint Presentation.*

Present: Donna Greenwood, Principal Assessor.

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board open a public hearing for the purpose of determining the 2017 tax classification; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation (previously sent to the Board electronically), Ms. Greenwood reviewed the questions regarding specific exemptions the Town has to consider when setting a tax levy. There are four questions communities consider, and clarifying that the fourth one, the Open Space Discount, does not apply to Medway as there are no Class 2 properties in Medway. The other questions reference a residential factor, a commercial factor and single/split tax rate.

Ms. Greenwood reviewed slides featuring various tax rate options featuring a single tax rate (residential only) and four options shifting the tax burden by 0%, 5%, 10% and 15%, respectively. She continued

with additional slides representing data on past and present tax levies, assessed values, comparisons to other communities, and other related statistics. Following the Board's vote, Ms. Greenwood will complete the LA5 form as required by law. Brief discussion followed.

Chairman Trindade asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. There were none.

**At 7:16 PM Selectman Foresto moved that the Board close the public hearing; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board not adopt a residential exemption; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board not adopt a commercial exemption; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board not adopt an open space discount on all Class two open space properties; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board adopt a single tax rate of 1.0; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

Mr. Boynton noted that Ms. Greenwood does a fantastic job putting this information together. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Trindade extended regards to the Board of Assessors as well.

**Authorization of Chairman to Execute Green Communities Annual Report:**

*The Board reviewed the Green Communities Annual Report.*

Present: Bob Weiss, Energy Manager.

Overall there has been a decrease in the base amount here and a big decrease from last year. New windows at the schools helped a lot. Two fewer vehicles, but adding vehicles that are energy-efficient is a plus. We have a lot more space that we are heating and cooling, plus addition of the MakerSpace and utilization of the Thayer Homestead. Overall we are doing very well. We have been able to significantly decrease greenhouse emissions by using the rooftop panels.

Selectman Foresto expressed concern that the schools are the biggest consumers of electricity and asked if that has improved at all. Mr. Weiss responded that there is a lot of work to do, but it might be good to look at the lighting in the schools and possibly change them. The reduction from the streetlight bulbs also made a difference.

Mr. Weiss reported that the Energy Committee has reviewed and approved the report.

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute the Green Communities Annual Report as presented; Selectmen D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Authorization of Chairman to Execute Contract with CBA Landscape Architects LLC for Parks and Playgrounds Improvements Project Design - \$121,770:**

*The Board reviewed the following information: (1) Request for Qualifications; and (2) Contract.*

Mr. Boynton reported that this contract is for the playground project design. The plans will be presented to the Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Selectmen in the coming weeks. This firm

was the successful respondent. Out of 31 requests, three firms responded to the RFQ. Discussion followed on the responding firms.

**Selectman D’Innocenzo moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with CBA Landscape Architect LLC for parks and playgrounds improvements design in an amount not to exceed \$121,770; Selectman Foresto seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Recognition of Generosity – R.P. Marzilli & Company:**

*The Board reviewed a Letter dated November 14, 2016 from the Board of Selectmen.*

Chairman Trindade stated that Mr. Marzilli has donated the Norway Spruce tree for planting in Choate park. Mr. Boynton read aloud the letter of thanks which is in addition to a plaque that will be presented to him.

**Approval – One-Day Liquor License Requests:**

*The Board reviewed applications and Police Chief’s recommendations for the following events at the Thayer Homestead: (1) Thomas McKenna, November 24, 2016; (2) Rich Eustis, December 10, 2016; (3) Nancy Toohey, January 22, 2017; and (4) Sue Rojee, January 29, 2017.*

Chairman Trindade explained for viewers who may be interested in renting the Thayer Homestead and have liquor at their function that a one-day liquor license is required.

**Selectman D’Innocenzo moved that the Board approve one-day liquor licenses for Thomas McKenna, Rich Eustis, Nancy Toohey and Sue Rojee for their events to be held at the Thayer Homestead on November 24 and December 10, 2016 and January 22 and January 29, 2017, subject to Police Chief’s recommendations and proof of appropriate insurance coverage; Selectman Foresto seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Action Items from Previous Meeting:**

Review of Action Items was postponed until the whole Board could be present.

**Approval of Warrants:**

*The Board reviewed Warrant 17-22.*

Selectman D’Innocenzo, Clerk, read aloud Warrant 17-22 dated 11/23/16 as follows:

17-22	Town Expenses	<u>\$365,723.65</u>
	TOTAL	\$365,723.65

**Selectman Foresto moved that the Board approve the Warrant as read; Chairman Trindade seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 3-0-0.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Board postponed review of the draft meeting minutes from April 19, 2016; June 20, 2016; July 11, 2016 and August 15, 2016 until the full Board could be present.

**Town Administrator’s Report:**

Mr. Boynton reiterated earlier concerns that there is little secure storage for town vehicles to protect them from the elements, reminding the Board that a DPS Facility is still on the drawing board. He will meet with Mr. Holder to work on a plan.

The Animal Control Officer will need a new vehicle that will be shared with the Town of Millis. The cost will probably be in the low \$30,000s.

Referring to the proposed Exelon expansion, Mr. Boynton reported that the Siting Board gave the final approval last week. We are waiting on the air permits at this point. After that, it would go into the appeal period. Construction would not start for approximately 9 months.

Mr. Boynton concluded his report by summarizing Thanksgiving Day events, the Christmas Parade, Santa at the Thayer Homestead, and Thank You to the community, the staff, the Selectmen and especially Ms. Potter, Assistant Town Administrator, for handling municipal matters during his absence.

**Selectmen's Reports:**

Selectman Foresto shared additional details on Saturday's Christmas Parade, noting that there will be fireworks and refreshments.

Selectman D'Innocenzo reported that the athletic teams had great sports seasons this fall, adding that many were able to qualify for state tournaments.

Chairman Trindade wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**At 7:42 PM Selectman Foresto moved to adjourn; Selectman D'Innocenzo seconded. No discussion.  
VOTE: 3-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Galliardt  
Night Board Secretary