

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 26, 2018 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall
155 Village Street**

Present: Dennis Crowley, Chair; John Foresto, Vice Chair; Richard D'Innocenzo, Clerk; Glenn Trindade, Member; Maryjane White, Member.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator; Allison Potter, Assistant Town Administrator; Carol Pratt, Finance Director; Donna Greenwood, Principal Assessor; Allen Tingley, Police Chief; Sandy Johnston, Communications Director.

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

Public Comments: None

Public Hearing – Tax Classification – 7:00 PM

The Board reviewed the (1) Memo dated November 26, 2018 from Donna Greenwood, (2) Public Hearing Notice, and (3) Presentation dated November 26, 2018.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board open the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Tax Classification public hearing. Selectman White seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Ms. Greenwood reviewed the content of the tax classification presentation. The options and specific impacts of a single tax rate and split tax rate shifting the tax burden by 5, 10 or 15 percent were discussed. Selectman Crowley noted that these numbers assume the single family home value does not change. Ms. Greenwood stated 16 of 351 communities apply a residential exemption, but those are communities with large rental populations. Ms. Greenwood then provided the small commercial exemption qualifications. Ms. Greenwood stated the assessment date for FY19 is January 1, 2018, and then went through the increases in single family, residential condominium, and commercial and industrial assessments, and the causes of these increases. She reviewed the 10% shift over the past three years from residential to commercial and industrial and personal property due to the Exelon expansion. Ms. Greenwood then reviewed the comparison of Medway to surrounding towns. There was discussion about whether Community Preservation Act funds were included in these numbers. Ms. Greenwood then reviewed the new growth valuation, prior year tax rate and tax levy growth noting the decrease in the tax rate over the past three years. She noted that the tax rates go down when the values are up and the tax rates go up when the values are down. She then reviewed the top five real estate tax payers and personal property tax payers.

Selectman Crowley asked that Mr. Boynton explain how this impact the residents. Mr. Boynton stated the Town is limited in what it can raise in additional taxes from year to year, including Proposition 2 ½ and the Town's annual budget. He stated that in Medway the Selectman have not been taxing to the levy limit noting that then benefits the taxpayers. Specifically, we leave \$300-\$350,000 tax dollars on the table each year. The Board of Selectmen's budget leadership continues to help the Town's tax rate to decrease. The other key component is the Board of Selectmen's tax reduction program utilizing Exelon funding, specifically \$950,000. This does not mean that residents will not see an increase in their

taxes, which is dependent on changes to the value of their home. The third quarter tax bill will show what the FY19 tax bill will be and, at this point, residents are able to apply for an abatement. Ms. Greenwood explained that values increase based on market value and any home improvements. Selectman Crowley explained this is a yearly topic that is reviewed and discussed.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board close the Fiscal Year 2019 Tax Classification public hearing. Selectman Trindade seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board approve the single tax rate for 2019 and there be no residential or commercial exemption. Selectman Trindade seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Ms. Pratt requested that the Board sign the LA5 form.

Approval: Temporary License for NSTAR/Eversource and Verizon for Transformer and Underground Related Equipment at 76 Oakland Street

The Board reviewed the (1) E-mail dated November 6, 2018 from Christine Cosby of Eversource, and (2) Transformer License with Plan.

Town Administrator Boynton stated the easement for the poles and wires was done at Fall Town Meeting noting this additional requirement for the transformer came in from Verizon after Fall Town Meeting.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board authorize the Chair to execute the temporary license for NSTAR/Eversource and Verizon for Transformer and Underground related equipment at 76 Oakland Street. Selectman Foresto seconded. No Discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Authorization to Expend Grant Funds: 911 Support and Incentive Grant - \$42,557

The Board reviewed the (1) Notice of Grant Award, (2) Contract, (3) Letter dated November 7, 2018 from Frank Pozniak, Executive Director of the State 911 Department

Chief Tingley stated this is a grant that has been applied for over the past ten years and noted an increase of \$12,000 over last year reporting that these additional funds allows the Police Dispatchers to take 911 calls directly rather than being routed through State Police headquarters. He listed the specific training these funds will be utilized for.

Selectman Trindade moved that the Board authorize the expenditure of the 911 Support and Incentive Grant in the amount of \$42,557 as presented. Selectman D’Innocenzo seconded. Discussion: Selectman Foresto noted the funds come from your telephone bill. Selectman Crowley stated that if we did not receive this grant, this would have to come from the Police budget. Selectman Crowley asked what happens to any unexpended funds. Chief Tingley stated the funds would need to go back to the State but anticipates fully utilizing these funds. **VOTE: 5-0-0.**

Mr. Boynton stated he will be off Thursday and Friday of this week.

Selectman White stated the Christmas parade improves yearly noting her appreciation of all the volunteers that help make it happen.

Selectman D’Innocenzo commended those residents who came out to run the Turkey Trot and seconded Ms. White’s statements about the Christmas parade.

Selectman Foresto reported he attended the last Energy Committee meeting noting that since there is no current committee action necessary in pursuit of energy initiatives the group would like to shift their focus to sustainability. He requested they compile the necessary information for a change in the committee’s mission and present this to the Board in January.

Selectman Crowley asked when the unaccounted for water report will be available. Mr. Boynton stated after December 1st as all utility billings need to be completed in order to obtain accurate data.

At 7:34 PM Selectman Trindade moved to adjourn. Selectman White seconded. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Langley
Administrative Assistant
Town Administrator’s Office