

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

2020 JAN 14 PM 3:09

Minutes
Town of Belmont

Select Board

Select Board Meeting Room

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

7:30pm

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 1/13/2020

CALL TO ORDER:

A joint meeting of the Select Board with the Board of Assessors. The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Select Board member Roy Epstein were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

The Assessors were not yet present at the meeting, therefore Caputo took up the Executive Session item first.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[None.]

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[None.]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Executive Session: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel; Police Chief

Motion: To enter into executive session as outlined above. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)

Motion: To leave executive session. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)

Appoint Acting Police Chief – Jamie MacIsaac

Motion: To appoint Jamie MacIsaac as acting Police Chief, effective January 1, 2020 until his forming swearing in as Police Chief. (Vote passed 3-0)

Vote to approve the annual property classification/tax rate for Fiscal Year 2020 – Board of Assessors report

Robert Reardon (Chair, Board of Assessors), Charles Laverty (Board of Assessors) and Dan Dargon (Assessing Administrator) were present. Reardon explained the annual hearing was for the Board to vote on: 1) whether or not to maintain a single tax rate, and 2) whether or not to adopt a residential exemption.

With respect to 1), as Belmont has such a small commercial base, the Assessors recommended maintaining a single tax rate. With respect to 2), Belmont does not have many large apartment building

(like in Cambridge, for e.g.) – home values are grouped tightly around the median. Therefore, adopting a residential exemption would have little impact, and the Assessors advised against doing so.

Reardon reviewed numbers related to the FY20 property taxes: the total tax levy was \$101m, reflecting the standard Proposition 2.5 increase from the FY19 levy, new growth of \$1.1m, and all-in debt service, including the High School project as well as previous debt from the Senior Center, Wellington, etc. The tax rate was \$11.00 per thousand of assessed value, dropping from \$11.67 in FY19; assessment of real property values had increased from FY19. New growth was mostly from the final stage of the Acorn Park development, as well as preliminary stage of the Cushing Square development.

Motion: To maintain a single tax rate for Fiscal Year 2020 with a minimum residential factor of 1, given that commercial, industrial and personal property taxes in Belmont account for only 5% of the levy. (Vote passed 3-0)

Motion: To not adopt the residential tax exemption for Fiscal Year 2020. (Vote passed 3-0)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To adjourn at 8:41pm. (Vote passed 3-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator