

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Office, 32 Main Street
Monday, September 26, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Select Board present: John O'Rourke (Chair), Robert Baker, Bob Armstrong

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lee Whitcomb, Administrative Assessor; Russell French, Malcolm Corse, Assessors

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Minutes

9/19/16 minutes will be reviewed at the regular Select Board meeting on October 3.

Citizens' concerns None.

Old Business None.

Tax Classification Hearing – 7:00 p.m. (continuation)

Lee Whitcomb, Administrative Assessor, reminded the Select Board of the previous presentation and the Assessors' recommendation to keep a single tax rate for both residences and business.

This year, we need to raise half a million dollars more than last year to meet our budget. This is based both on increased local spending (e.g., school expenses) and to decreased state aid. We need to raise \$4.6 million. The good news is that the tax value of town land went up \$15 million, from \$245M to \$260M. This was due partly to new growth, partly due to a change in the land schedule, where the first acre is worth more, and partly to some secondary lots being valued at the primary rate.

The FY17 levy limit is \$4,643,146, up \$255,074 from last year. The maximum allowable levy for FY17 is \$18.08, which could be raised, for example, to provide extra free cash.

The new tax rate, assuming Select Board approval of the Assessors' recommendations, is \$17.75, up from \$16.68, a 6.4% rise. The average single family home is valued at \$290,900 and has a tax bill of \$5,163.48, up about \$246 from last year's bill of about \$4,917.

Our excess levy capacity is only \$87,121.34, down from over \$360,000 last year. We will need to plan the funding carefully for any new projects, as well as try to keep our general stabilization fund at an appropriate level. For FY18, we will need to plan for very little new growth. We won't get much more new growth from Comcast until FY19.

On a motion from John O'Rourke to accept the Assessor's recommendation for a single tax rate (a residential factor of 1.0), seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign the Tax Classification Allocation form, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.

On a motion from John O'Rourke to authorize the Administrative Assessor to sign electronically on the Gateway system, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.

There was general discussion about exemptions. Also, excess private solar production can be contributed to the Town for a fund for the needy; Tom Hutcheson will ask Bob Dean of the FRCOG about that.

New Business None.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours In Advance of the Meeting

Robert Baker, as Fire Chief, asked for the Select Board to set a rate of \$25 for his hourly call-out pay.

Robert Baker, as Fire Chief, ask the Select Board to consider recommending a new Fire vehicle. Tom Hutcheson asked for a written estimate to repair and a quote on a new vehicle.

Town Administrator Update None.

Concerns of the Selectmen None.

Mail None.

Announcements None.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for **Monday, October 3, 2016** at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office, 32 Main Street

On a motion at 7:52 p.m. from John O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Baker, Clerk