



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 6, 2019**

Members Present: Shana Shufelt, Chair
Brian T. Valcourt, Vice-Chair
Ann Boxler, Clerk
Steven J. Ouellette
Richard Brewer

Also Present: Timothy J. King, Town Administrator

Chairman Shufelt called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Westport Town Hall second floor meeting room, 816 Main Road, Westport, MA. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Announcement: Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f), the meeting was being recorded.

Action Item 1: The Board heard a request from Mike Sylvia representing the Westport Girls' Softball League for permission to use the softball fields adjacent to the former Middle School site for practices only during the Summer. In past years, the WGS� has received permission from the Board of Selectmen to use the fields. They are agreeable to the same terms as in prior years (maintenance of fields, proof of insurance, etc.). They also agreed to cease using the fields if it was necessary because of work related to the new school. Ouellette made a motion seconded by Valcourt to permit the use of the fields with those conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

6:05 Public Hearing Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40, Section 56 Tax Classification Hearing for Fiscal Year 2019 .

The Board of Assessors were present to discuss the status of the 10-year revaluation and make a recommendation on the classification of property for the purposes of property taxation. Present were Steve Medeiros, Mike Castro, and Sue Ann McDermott. They recommended one class for all property.

Chair Shufelt asked what the status was of new growth. Medeiros said that new growth has not been certified yet. He is hoping to have it certified tomorrow. The Assessors cannot set a tax rate until new growth is certified.

Shufelt asked what residents could expect in the 4th quarter tax bill as the previous 3 quarters were estimated. Medeiros believes there will be an increase compared to the other quarters but there will be some variation based on the change in values due to the revaluation.

Shufelt asked why the tax bills are going out so late compared to prior years. Medeiros stated that the State Department of Revenue was slow in certifying the values. In addition, the

Assessors had some problems with the performance of the consultant who did the property inspections. The consultants did not complete the inspections in a timely manner and the Department of Revenue identified many errors in their work.

Brewer asked whether the new Police Station and new School will have an impact on the tax rate. King stated that there is some debt service in the FY 19 budget to cover the new Police Station debt and \$270,000 in interest on the \$9 million Bond Anticipation Note for the new school.


There was no one in the audience as a member of the public to comment therefore the Public Hearing was closed.

On a motion by Ouellette, seconded by Valcourt the Board voted unanimously to have one tax rate for all classes of property for Fiscal Year 2019.

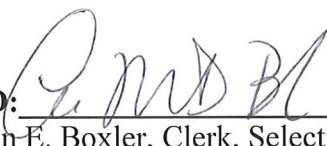
Shufelt asked Medeiros about Article 29 on the Town Meeting Warrant providing \$40,000 to the Assessors for updating the valuations. Medeiros stated that the Assessors typically ask for funds each to pay for updating the valuations so they will not need to ask for a larger sum all in one year.

Ms. Shufelt stated that the board's next meeting was scheduled for 6 p.m. on May 7 at the High School Cafeteria. With no other business on the agenda, Mr. Ouellette made a motion to adjourn at 6:32pm seconded by Mr. Brewer; the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. King, Town Administrator

APPROVED: 

Ann E. Boxler, Clerk, Select Board Member

Attachments to Agenda: NONE.