

Minutes of the Selectboard Special Meeting of
Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 3:00 pm

This meeting was conducted via teleconference using ZOOM, in order to maintain appropriate physical distance under COVID-19 precautions. Members present: Claudette Brochu, Chair; Roger Arnold, Vice Chair; Robert Gere; John Langhus; Mary Layton; and Herb Durfee, Town Manager.

Also participating: Cheryl Lindberg, Treasurer, Linda Cook.

1. **Approval of Agenda.** Upon calling the meeting to order at 3:00 pm, Brochu asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Public Comment.** No members of the public offered comment. Arnold, on behalf of the board, clarified why the Board packet contained two versions of the draft tax rate worksheet – one with the regional energy coordinator included and the other without. He explained there are some on-going issues with the establishment of the regional energy coordinator concerning the multi-town draft bylaws and their content as prepared by TRORC. As such, the Town is not yet satisfied with some outstanding questions, and, at this point, TRORC apparently opted to move forward with the position even without Norwich on-board. The Board's hope is that eventually there will be agreement by all parties involved.
3. **FY 2020-21 Tax Rate.** Given the clarification made by Arnold under Public Comment, the board agreed to proceed with the Tax Rate calculation inclusive of the regional energy coordinator amount authorized by voters at the March 2020 Town Meeting (\$30,670). At Brochu's prompt, Lindberg updated the Board that the anticipated offsetting revenue for the "Current Use Payment" will be slightly higher than what is in the worksheet – i.e., \$189,218 instead of \$187,117. There was general discussion about how that change would impact the tax rates for Homestead and Non-Residential taxpayers, and, ultimately, the Board agreed adopting the rates as presented as "not to exceed" rates with the proviso that the worksheet be amended to include the updated Current Use Payment and further that the resulting rates would be the actual rates used for preparing/printing tax bills. Cook asked and the Board confirmed that the worksheet being used was the one inclusive of the energy coordinator and that the updated Current Use Payment would be included in the final calculation. With no further discussion, Langhus **moved** (2nd Gere) **to set the FY21 Total Homestead Tax Rate at \$2.3594 (which equals the sum of the \$1.8185 School Homestead Rate, the \$0.5330 Town Tax Rate, inclusive of the Local Agreement Rate, and the \$0.0079 Windsor County Tax Rate) and the Total Non-Residential Tax Rate at \$2.2699 (which equals the sum of the \$1.7290 School Non-Residential Tax Rate, the \$0.5330 Town Tax Rate, inclusive of the Local Agreement Rate, and the \$0.0079 Windsor County Tax Rate), each rate being based on \$1,000 per assessed valuation, and with the proviso that the updated Current Use Payment amount be factored into the tax rate calculation worksheet whereby the tax rate outcome would be the actual rates used for the preparation and printing of property tax bills.** Durfee indicated he would include the tax rate calculation sheet as an attachment to the meeting minutes. There being no further discussion. By roll call, the **motion passed unanimously.**

[Town Manager's note for the record. When completing the revised calculation, according to the above motion (i.e., inclusive of the updated Current Use Payment, the ACTUAL Total Homestead Rate = \$2.3591 and the Total Non-Residential Rate = \$2.2696. The original, proposed tax rate calculation worksheet and the adopted tax rate calculation worksheet are both attached to the minutes herein.]

4. **Adjournment.** At 3:17 pm, Layton **moved** (2nd Langhus) to adjourn. By roll call, **motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert A. Durfee, III

Approved by the Selectboard on August 12, 2020

Claudette Brochu
Selectboard Chair