

**SHARON SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, August 6, 2020  
Minutes (Draft)**

*This meeting was held in compliance  
With the Vermont Open Meeting Law with electronic participation.*

Attendance:

Selectboard Members via Zoom: Joe Ronan, Mary Gavin;

Board Members absent: Kevin Gish

Staff via Zoom: Deb Jones (Finance Manager), Margy Becker (Selectboard Assistant),

Town Officials: Galen Mudgett, Lister

Chair Joe Ronan convened the meeting at 6:00PM.

**1. Review/Approve Agenda:**

**Mary Gavin made the motion to approve the agenda without changes. Kevin Gish seconded. The motion carried.**

**2. Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**3. Board Member Reports:**

Joe Ronan reported on his participation in a phone call with Peter Welch. Representative Welch is optimistic about compromise on another federal aid package, which will include aid for municipalities.

**4. FY21 Tax Rate:**

Galen Mudgett reports there are still 15 parcels that remain uncertified by the Current Use Program. This means the grand list could go down slightly, and he is unsure by how much. He also noted the loss of the McLane residence on Lent Road and that an abatement request is expected. Galen recommended setting the municipal tax rate at \$.7672, which is a \$.0086 increase over last year. This tax rate is projected to raise \$1,266,618.81 in revenues. Last March voters approved an amount to be raised in taxes as \$1,266,569.17.

Veterans Off Set: The amount needed to be raised by local taxes is \$3,661.92. A tax rate of \$.0023 raises \$3,797.21 (an increase of \$.0001). A tax rate of \$.0022 only raises \$3,632.11, which is short of the target amount.

**Mary Gavin made the motion to set the FY21 municipal tax rate at \$.7672 and the veterans offset at \$.0023 based on a grand list of \$1,650,963. Joe Ronan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Galen Mudgett reported the grand list benefitted from a change in the Green Mountain Power valuation. GMP now wholly-owns the utility poles as part of its Phase 3 line upgrade. The phone company used to share ownership of these poles. The grand list increased by \$2 million, as a result of this change in GMP valuation.

Galen Mudgett noted the following State Education tax rates, which the town has little control over:

Homestead Tax Rate: \$1.5258 (increase of \$.0416)  
Non-Homestead tax Rate: \$1.5900 (increase of \$.0619)

Total FY21 tax rates calculate to be:

Total Homestead Rate: \$2.2953 (increase of \$.0503)  
Total Non-Homestead Rate: \$2.3592 (increase of \$.0703)

**5. Health Officer:**

The Town is without a health officer. Margy Becker will advertise again for this position. SB members agreed to the compensation rate of \$20/hour plus out-of-pocket expenses. The town health officer enforces the VT rental housing code, and they are responsible for addressing other public health matters as they arise. The health officer works closely with the Selectboard, which acts as the Local Board of Health as-needed.

**6. Other Business:**

Selectmen agreed to a special meeting on Monday, August 10 at 5:00PM in place of its Tuesday, August 11 AM meeting. SB members are helping out at the polls on primary day. Action items for August 10 include legal trails, Black Lives Matter, and a personnel executive session.

**7. Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn at 6:40PM made by Mary Gavin. Joe Ronan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Submitted by,  
Margy Becker