

**Union Board of Selectmen & Assessor's Meeting**

**September 5, 2017**

**6:30 p.m. Meeting**

**Selectmen present:** Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Jim Justice, John Shepard, Sarah Drickey

**Others present:** Jay Feyler, Jim Murphy, Travis Brown, Elmer L. Savage, Christine Norris

- 1) Call selectmen's meeting to order:** 6:30 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of allegiance:**
- 3) Public comment:**
- 4) Approve minutes of August 15, 2017:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Shepard, who mentioned correcting the spellings of "Asher" and "Cole Road"  
5-0 with spelling corrections

- 5) Set mill rate and sign commitment**

Jim Murphy talked about the 2018 tax commitment.

The new mill rate is 15.80. With changes in the valuations of properties the town has increased about \$20 million in valuation; however, with the increase in the Homestead Exemption to \$20,000 the town had a reduction of about \$5 million in taxable valuation. The net gain is \$14,262,300. Last year the mill rate was 16.90.

Motion by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Sarah Drickey  
5-0

- 6) Tree growth penalty correction:**

Jim Murphy asked that the Board of Selectmen rescind its June 20, 2017 action for withdrawal of property owner Thomas' Tree Growth Penalty, and to sign as of September 5, 2017 property owner Thomas' Farm Space Penalty.

Motion by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Shepard  
5-0

- 7) Set dates for Town Manager Evaluation:**

Evaluation will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

Motion by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Lyle Cramer  
5-0

**8) Renewal of Liquor License for Savage Oakes:**

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Sarah Drickey  
5-0

**9) Updates on sidewalks, recreation complex:**

Jay will meet with DEP (no date yet) to use Bump Hill property to offset wetlands. It looks promising.

The sidewalk application went in last meeting; Jay received an email from a person who said he would get back with questions. There has been no word yet, but assume fine, wait and see. The application was phase 1 going down to Ayer Park. Around January they will let us know. Lyle suggested that progress be reported to the paper. Jay said a good time to get a press release out would be when we have heard back.

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Shepard  
5-0

**10) Vote to close office on 9/22, 11/4 and 11/29 training:**

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Sarah Drickey  
5-0

**11) Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated September 5, 2017:**

Motion by: Jim Justice  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Shepard  
5-0

**12) Town Manager's Report:**

TREES: Jay talked about clean-up of trees on the Common. One large tree other than the base was completely rotted and went into the wood chipper. Dan Burns, who does chainsaw carving at the Fair, agreed to do some carving very reasonably. John suggested a Moxie bottle.

Jay said three other trees on the Common are completely dead. At some point stumps will be removed, and we can then decide if we want to replant. We must stop planting maples, as they are damaged by road chemicals, high levels of salt, and traffic on the Common. There are more trees nearing the ends of their lives including around the Post Office. Jay noted some can possibly be saved by taking out branches, as around the ¾ mark is where damage occurs.

SAD 40: Jay said the State returned approx. \$590,000.00 to schools. The law intended 50% to spend, 50% for tax relief, but a loophole allows SAD 40 to keep it all.

There will be a meeting on this issue Thursday, September 21, 2017 at Friendship School. Jay asked to be put on the agenda. He has become the *de facto* spokesperson for district towns who want their share of the money. Paula Sutton will be there. Concerned citizens should attend. \$34-35,000.00 would go to Union.

**DISCUSSION:**

John mentioned he has not heard anything about this from town school board reps.

Greg asked: if all towns in SAD 40 get together, could we have a referendum vote to put a limit on the school budget? Such as 2.5% increase each year with a loophole, but the bottom line would give them something they have to work at. Jay said would have to go thru attorney.

Lyle said when SADs were put together that was an issue. All not in SAD could put limits on the budget & were mandated to work with the school board. SAD 40 developed a system of so many reps; that board was given authority.

They talked more about SAD 40.

Greg said this should get to press. Who is our contact? Will look into it.

**13) Other Business:**

**14) Selectmen's Report:**

John brought up Animal Control Officer William Demmons. Jay said he brings in a monthly report.

Jim gave out a packet about an electronic sign for the Town Office, which could be updated daily.

Greg mentioned China, Maine has a nice plain LED sign.

Greg mentioned a note card which Jay read, from a young person who'd received a gift card from the Town Office (from employees pooling money instead of exchanging Christmas gifts). The young person bought apples and made apple pies to give away.

**15) Future Agenda Items:**

**16) Adjourn:**

Motion by: Jim Justice

2<sup>nd</sup> by: John Shepard

5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Abaldo