

Townshend Select Board Minutes

August 22, 2013

SPECIAL MEETING

Present:

Select Board: Kit Martin; David Dezendorf; Hedy Harris; Scott Chase; Chad Greenwood
In attendance: Craig Hunt, (assistant)

1. Call to Order: Martin called the Special Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. and reviewed the calculated Municipal Tax Rate of \$0.6372, Homestead Tax Rate of \$2.2522 and Non-Resident Tax Rate of \$2.2151. Hunt explained that the Base Homestead Education Rate was set at \$0.94 with another \$0.53 due to excess spending at the schools.

Lengthy discussion ensued with Board members deliberating on what might be cut to make everyone's taxes more affordable. Though nothing could be cut that wouldn't be as or more expensive to budget for next year, consideration was given to not purchasing the new highway truck, not replacing guardrails, reducing by half the amount of gravel to be crushed and not contracting for fog-line painting.

The savings from all of these reductions, plus crediting \$100,000 that's expected, but not yet received from FEMA toward the Dam Culvert project, would lower Homestead tax bills by approximately \$0.15.

It was noted that the new Common Level of Appraisal, subsequent to Town-wide reassessment last year, was at an unacceptable and unaffordable 91.26%. The assessor, David Marazoff, had told the Select Board on May 20th that the CLA would be about 100%. At the lower percentage, now, it adds more than \$0.14 to the tax rate, or almost as much as all the suggested cuts would offset.

Not ordering a new plow truck this year would throw off the planned replacement schedule for vehicles, it was noted, and probably reduce by half the trade-in allowance that was expected.

With municipal assessment down by \$21,000,000, and the CLA at 91.26%, the Board took no action on setting the new Tax Rates, but hoped to receive explanations about these figures from the Listers and David Marazoff prior to the next Select Board meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd.

2. Other Business: None at this time.

3. Adjournment: Dezendorf made a motion: To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Select Board at 7:24 P.M., carried by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig K. Hunt, assistant

Approved: 09/03/13