

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

PRESENT: Daniel W. Trabucco (Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Vice Chairman), Gregory M. Hanley (Clerk), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), Cathy Salmon (Chief Assessor), Cynthia Long (Assessor), Mary Quill (Assessor), Elizabeth Bates (Assessor), Thomas Driscoll (Recycling Committee), Paul Murphy, John Mattinson (PMB Cable), Pat Ronan (Ledger), WATD reporter and others.

7:00 PM FISCAL YEAR 2012 TAX RATE CLASSIFICATION HEARING

Chief Assessor Cathy Salmon appeared before the Board to request they vote on whether to keep a uniform tax rate or split the rate between residential property and commercial/industrial/personal property. She also requested the Board vote on a small commercial property exemption. Ms. Salmon provided the current valuation of the Town at \$2,302,688,995.00. The estimated levy based on the votes from Town Meeting will be \$32,030,404.00 resulting in a uniform tax rate of \$13.91 per property tax payer. This is an average of \$4500 per residential taxpayer on an average single family value of \$326,600; \$13,500 per commercial tax payer. Only 12-13% of Pembroke is commercial/industrial. Mr. Boyle asked if such a small percentage could bear the shift with such a high residential population. Ms. Salmon stated the surrounding communities such as Brockton, Braintree and Hanover that utilize the split rate have an excess of 25% of commercial and industrial properties. The average single family home value has remained about the same FY11 to FY12 (down less than .25%) and the average commercial property went down 1.5%. The average single family tax bill will go up approximately \$150 and the average commercial tax bill will go up approximately \$230. The Board of Assessors recommends staying with the single rate. Ms. Salmon introduced the small commercial exemption; few towns adopt it. This shifts the tax burden from small commercial to large commercial. To qualify the business must have less than ten employees in a property worth less than \$1million. The problem is, the owner of the property then gets the exemption, not the qualifying business owner. The Board of Assessors does not recommend this exemption. Discussion ensued. Ms. Salmon reiterated that the estimated levy amount of \$32,030,404 is money voted on, spent, by voters at Town Meeting. Mr. Boyle moved to accept a uniform tax rate for the Town of Pembroke for FY12 for the Town of Pembroke. Mr. Boulter seconded the motion; Roll call vote: Boyle, yes - Boulter, yes – Stone, yes – Hanley, no – Trabucco, yes. Mr. Boyle moved that the Town of Pembroke not adopt the small commercial exemption; Mr. Boulter seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boyle then moved to recess the Tax Classification Hearing and that it remain open until further notice; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously in favor.

7:30 PUBLIC HEARING: BELLESTAR JEWELRY'S PERMIT APPLICATION

Paul Murphy, owner of Bellestar Jewelry appeared before the Board to obtain a Precious Metals license to buy scrap metal and sell retail jewelry at 95 Church Street. Mr. Hanley

moved to approve a precious metal license be granted to Bellestar Jewelry; Mr. Boyle seconded. Vote was unanimously in favor.

MINUTES

Mr. Stone moved and Mr. Hanley seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2011 as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thomas Driscoll appeared before the Board to update them on the two articles that will appear in both the Express and the Mariner with helpful recycling hints. Mr. Stone asked for updated list of recycling items to be sent with bills.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Boulter updated the Board on the Pembroke 300th meeting last Tuesday at the Pembroke Country Club. He also gave a Pembroke 300th Anniversary Committee update on weekly donations acknowledging individual donors. The Pembroke Cultural Council has given a grant of \$1000 to Gwen Souza for the Pops Night for the 300th and she is seeking volunteers. The First big event on January 15th will be the kickoff event; numbered commemorative plates are still available. Mr. Boulter's contact information is available on the website: <http://www.pembroke300.com>.

7:45 PASTA ELEGANZA LIVE ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

Thomas Pugliese from Pasta Eleganza appeared before the Board to request a live entertainment license for singers, guitarists and keyboard players for Friday and Saturday nights only, no Sundays. Mr. Boulter moved to grant Pasta Eleganza a Live Entertainment license, Mr. Boyle seconded. Vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER REMOTE PARTICIPATION AT MEETING BY TOWN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. Trabucco had asked that this be brought to the Board as under the new Open Meeting Law, it is now allowable for any Town official to be present remotely; by telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing. He also stated there are rules that decide when that can be used ie: personal illness, personal disability, emergency, military service or geographical distance. The physical quorum must be maintained in the room of the meeting. Mr. Trabucco asked for discussion. For Boards and Committees to use this, authorization must be granted by the "chief executive officer" and may be revoked at any time. Mr. Boyle asked if this could extend to Town Meeting with the possibility of their votes needing to be recorded remotely at Town Meeting. He would not support that. He requested more time to talk about it and that no decision is made tonight. All were in agreement to take up issue at later time; no action taken.

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OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Boyle stated that the Town Administrator spoke to Mike Valenti about opening the Recycling Center for the first two Sundays in December for \$400 versus curbside pickup

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for approximately \$3-4000. Mr. Boyle moved to open December 4th and December 11 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for leaf drop off only; Mr. Boulter seconded. Four votes in favor, one against.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Town Administrator asked the Board to look at their schedule for December; next week they can set their end of year schedule.

UPCOMING ISSUES

Mr. Hanley announced that they received permission from Superintendent Frank Hackett and Coach Bob Bancroft to host an old fashioned Bonfire Pep Rally at the High School on November 27, Sunday Night at 6:00 pm. Fire Chief Neenan has given his approval and DPW Director is supervising construction of bonfire behind the practice fields at 80 Learning Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.