

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2012**

PRESENT: Gregory M. Hanley (Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Vice Chairman), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Clerk), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Selectman), Daniel Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Cathy Salmon (Chief Assessor), Elizabeth Bates (Board of Assessors), Cynthia Long (Board of Assessors), Mary Quill (Board of Assessors), Dan Taylor (Chairman, Planning Board), Josh Cutler, Maureen Bates, Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), Erika Christianson (PACTV Cable), Mike Melanson (Pembroke Mariner Express), and others.

7:00 PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING FY2013, BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Hanley opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm.

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 just under \$2.3 billion. The estimated levy based on the votes from Town Meeting will be \$32,595,000 resulting in a uniform tax rate of \$14.20 per thousand dollars of assessed value. This is an average of \$4,596 per residential taxpayer on an average single family assessment of \$323,700; \$14,173 per commercial tax payer on an average assessment of \$998,000. Pembroke is 87% residential, 9% commercial, 3% industrial and 1% personal property. Mr. Boyle asked if such a small percentage could bear the shift with such a high residential population. Ms. Salmon stated that, in order for the residential taxpayers to save \$70 per year, the shifting burden to commercial taxpayers would result in an increase of \$1400. Surrounding communities such as Brockton, Braintree and Hanover that utilize the split rate have an excess of 25% of commercial and industrial properties. 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 \$32,595,000 is money voted on, spent, by voters at Town Meeting. Mr. Hanley requested FY12 tax rate; Ms. Salmon stated it was \$13.91 per thousand. Mr. Boyle moved to accept a uniform tax rate for the Town of Pembroke for FY13 for the Town of Pembroke. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boyle moved that the Town of Pembroke not adopt the small commercial exemption; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. 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. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pembroke Community Group has begun its annual fund drive; through this program, Pembroke families, elders or any person in need is given assistance every year for the holidays and are provided with food, gifts and clothing when funds permit. Anyone in need should contact Linda Porazzo at (781) 243-1103 or Susan Roche at (781) 293-3249. New toys and clothing may be taken to the Recreation Department or to the Pembroke Fire Station nights and weekends. Those wishing to make a donation should make their check payable to the Pembroke Community Group, P.O. Box 1387, Pembroke or drop it off at the Selectmen's office. This group operates solely on donations and is a 501(c) 3.

State Representative-elect Josh Cutler was present before the Board to introduce his legislative aid Maureen Bates, his district office at 235 Washington Street in Pembroke and announce future office hours at the Pembroke Council on Aging on the first Friday of the month at 9:00 am and at Pembroke Town Hall evenings to be announced. For any questions, email josh@joshcutler.com. Mr. Cutler stated he will be assisting in advancing the Route 53 Pleasant Street Traffic Signal Project, watching for grant opportunities for Pembroke Watershed Association and will return with budget updates when available.

CONSIDER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mr. Thorne proposed the following holiday meeting schedule for the Board of Selectmen; December 10, December 17, January 7, January 14, and January 28. Mr. Boyle moved the proposed schedule subject to the Chairman being able to call special meetings as necessary; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

7:30 ORTA RESTAURANT: LIVE ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

Mr. Brett Williams, owner of Eccolo, Inc d/b/a ORTA at 75 Washington Street was present before the Board; they are requesting a Live Entertainment license for Friday and Saturday evenings before midnight for live music and singer. Mr. Stone moved to grant Live Entertainment license for Friday and Saturday evenings before midnight for live music and singer to be exercised at 75 Washington Street by Eccolo, Inc d/b/a ORTA. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor.

VOTE 2013 LIQUOR LICENSES

Mr. Stone moved to approve the liquor license renewals as presented on the attached list of twenty-nine licensees. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2012 AND OCTOBER 5, 2012

Mr. Boyle moved to accept the minutes of October 1, 2012 and October 5, 2012 as submitted. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Thorne updated the Board as to his and Mr. Stone's appointment before the Marshfield BOS last Monday evening; it is hoped that they will look favorably on Pembroke's request for assistance in the truck exclusion project which also includes Duxbury.

ASK THE SELECTMEN

Mr. Stone stated that he had previously received a letter requesting that the Recycling Center be open additional hours for yard waste, which the Town was able to accommodate. The residents follow up letter has requested that the Town provide curbside pickup for yard waste; as this is not in our budget, it cannot be accommodated this year but could be reviewed for next year but will affect solid waste fees assessed to residents. Mr. Trabucco wanted to update the Board and residents about the work of the Jones River Watershed Association; they are trying to protect the Jones River and the basin which originates from Silver Lake. For more information, visit www.jonesriver.org.

Mr. Hanley announced the Community Center future uses Public Hearing date of December 17th at 7:30 pm. Mr. Boyle requested an update from the Animal Control officer on the animal bite. Mr. Hanley requested this be scheduled for next week. Mr. Stone stated that Wakefield, Reading and Melrose have banned dispensing sites for Medical Marijuana; he requested that Mr. Thorne speak with Kopelman and Paige to determine whether or not this is legal should Pembroke decide to follow suit. Mr. Hanley stated that the BOS can vote for a moratorium to put the decision off to a date certain (ie: annual Town Meeting). Mr. Hanley requested that Mr. Thorne check with legal counsel to determine whether or not this would be the correct course of action. Mr. Thorne stated that the MMA meeting January 23 & 24 in Boston applications are in the Selectmen's office; deadline for registration is the end of December. Mr. Trabucco requested that the Board reconsider the use of remote participation on a future agenda and speak with other boards, committees and commissions in advance to obtain feedback.

Mr. Hanley requested a moment of silence to honor the passing of Bob McKenna, former Veteran's Agent.

Mr. Trabucco made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor by roll call. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.