

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2015**

PRESENT: Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Vice-Chairman), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Clerk), Michelle L. Burt (Selectman), Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Catherine Salmon (Chief Assessor), Mary Quill (Assessor), Scott DeSantis (Assessor), Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), and others.

At 7:00 pm Mr. Boyle opened the meeting and advised that the meeting is being made available to the public through a live video and audio broadcast on Comcast Government Access Channel 15 and is also being recorded for airing on the channel at future dates. Comments made in open session will be recorded.

7:00 PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING FY16, BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Boyle 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 finalized value of the Town at \$2,451,943,308. The estimated levy based on the votes from Town Meeting will be \$37,416,655 resulting in a uniform tax rate of \$15.26 per thousand dollars of assessed value. This is an average of \$5,274.16 per residential taxpayer on an average single family assessment of \$345,620; \$14,886.21 per commercial tax payer on an average assessment of \$975,505. Pembroke has 87.06% in the residential class, 8.50% in commercial class, 3.02% in industrial class and 1.43% in personal property class. 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 \$78.41 per year, the shifting burden to commercial taxpayers would result in an increase of \$1,488.62. The Board of Assessors recommends staying with the single rate. Ms. Salmon introduced the small commercial exemption; only ten towns in the state have adopted 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 \$1 million. 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 \$34,970,197 is money voted on, spent, by voters at Town Meeting. Mr. Boulter moved to accept a uniform tax rate for the Town of Pembroke for FY16 for the Town of Pembroke; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Stone moved that the Town of Pembroke not adopt the small commercial exemption; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Stone moved to recess the Tax Classification Hearing and that it remain open until the call of the chairman; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

7:15 KATHLEEN KEEGAN, TREE LIGHTING COMMITTEE

Ms. Keegan, Chairman of the Pembroke Tree Lighting Committee, was present before the Board with an update of activities for the December 6th tree lighting ceremony on the Town Green. Activities will include food concessions, luminaries, crafts, touch a truck opportunities and a movie. Santa will arrive on a Pembroke fire truck at 6:00 pm; this event is free to all. Last year there were approximately 1300 people. Ms. Keegan thanked the DPW for their hard work stringing the lights on the green and the volunteers who help make the event a success. The Committee has requested \$2000 to help fund the event so it may stay a free event for all. Mr. Boulter moved to transfer \$2000 from the Camp Pembroke fund to the Pembroke Tree Lighting Committee; Ms. Burt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

VOTE TO EXERCISE OR WAIVE THE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL, 40B: 17 FREEDOM CIR

The estate of Roberta Schwartz wants to resell the affordable, 40B property at 17 Freedom Circle and has asked the town to consider its right of first refusal. Mr. Stone moved to waive the Town's right of first refusal to purchase the property and allow the DHCD to handle marketing the property as a 40B affordable home. Ms. Burt seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor.

**CONSIDER FISHING TOURNAMENT REQUEST, GREG HORNE FOR RI STATE
BASSMASTERS ON OLDHAM POND SEPTEMBER 11, 2016**

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Mr. Stone moved to GRANT A Special Use, Summer Events permit ro Greg Horne of the RI State Bassmasters Club for a fishing tournament on Oldham Pond on September 11, 2016; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

RECOMMENDATION OF TOWN TREASURER: VOTE TO ACCEPT PARCEL AS TAX POSSESSION PROPERTY

Mr. Stone moved the Treasurer's recommendation to accept the referenced Schoosett Street parcel, parcel id# E14-132 as a tax possession property. Ms. Burt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

TEMPORARY TRAILER PERMIT REQUEST: 443 CENTER STREET, MARK POWERS

Mr. Boulter moved to grant a Temporary Trailer Permit for a six month period to Mark Powers at 443 Center Street to be use as temporary living quarters; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER SURPLUS PROPERTY AUCTION DATE

Three fire department vehicles and one Council on Aging vehicle have been submitted and declared by the Board of Selectmen as surplus property; Mr. Boulter moved to set an auction date with a deadline for submissions of January 6, 2016 with high bidders voted by the Board at their meeting of January 11, 2016. Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

VOTE TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. Stone moved to accept the minutes of November 17, 2015 as written; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Boyle read the upcoming issues from the agenda.

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Trabucco moved to enter executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel; Fire Chief Contract. Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote by roll call: Mr. Trabucco – yes, Ms. Burt – yes, Mr. Boulter – yes, Mr. Stone – yes, Mr. Boyle – yes.

At 8:15 pm, Mr. Stone moved to adjourn; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

MATERIALS & EXHIBITS

PowerPoint slides (14), C. Salmon (Assessor/BOS/TA Office)
Probate Certification, NoI to Sell, Appraisal 17 Freedom Circle (BOS/TA Office)
Email and Application, Greg Horne, Email M. Guiney (ConCom/BOS/TA Office)
Letter, K. McCarthy/Letter Land Court re: E14-132 (Treasurer/BOS/TA Office)
Permit Application & Site Rendering 443 Center Street (BOS/TA Office)
Draft: Minutes of Meeting of November 17, 2015 (BOS/TA Office)