

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

PRESENT: Daniel Trabucco (Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Clerk), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Selectman), Catherin Salmon (Chief Assessor), Elizabeth Bates, Scott DeSantis, Susan Roche, Alana Bibaud, Michael Suckow, Martin Walsh, Mark Burrridge (Pembroke Mariner Express), Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), and others.

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Trabucco called the meeting to order.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Stone announced that the Board of Health will be holding a public flu clinic in their office on January 5th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm for residents 19 years of age or older. Mr. Stone requested that the BOS name their representative for the Plymouth County Advisory Board meeting on December 4th; Mr. Trabucco stated that the Board will discuss this item further next week.

Michael Suckow, president of the Kiwanis Club of Pembroke, was present with Zip Walsh to announce the beginning of the Holiday Tree Sale at the Herring Run on Friday, November 28th through December 21st, proceeds to fund scholarships for Pembroke seniors.

7:00 PUBLIC HEARING: TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING FY15, BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Trabucco 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 \$2,372,469,282. The estimated levy based on the votes from Town Meeting will be \$34,970,197 resulting in a uniform tax rate of \$14.74 per thousand dollars of assessed value. This is an average of \$4,914.79 per residential taxpayer on an average single family assessment of \$333,432; \$14,412.93 per commercial tax payer on an average assessment of \$977,811. Pembroke is 86.75% residential, 8.77% commercial, 3.09% industrial and 1.38% 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 \$75.04 per year, the shifting burden to commercial taxpayers would result in an increase of \$1,441.29. Surrounding communities such as Brockton, Braintree and Hanover that utilize the split rate have an excess of 25% of commercial and industrial properties resulting in a 75/25 split. 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 \$34,970,197 is money voted on, spent, by voters at Town Meeting. Ms. Salmon further clarified that the 3.61% tax % change includes the debt exclusion amount voted by residents at a special town meeting to replace the schools roofs. Mr. Boyle moved to accept a uniform tax rate for the Town of Pembroke for FY15 for the Town of Pembroke and that the Town of Pembroke not adopt the small commercial exemption. Mr. Boulter 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 the call of the chairman; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY ADVANCEMENT FROM STEP 2 TO STEP 3: DPW WATER DIVISION SKILLED LABORER-DRIVER

Mr. Boyle moved to table this item until the next meeting; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR RECLASSIFICATION: ASSISTANT TO THE REC DIRECTOR

Mr. Boyle moved to table this item until the next meeting; Mr. Stone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Mr. Stone moved to accept the minutes of November 17, 2014 as written; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

ASK THE SELECTMEN

Mr. Stone wanted to remind residents that they must identify themselves to participate in Ask the Selectmen with questions, comments or complaints so that their needs can be responded to appropriately.

Mr. Boulter stressed ice safety with residents and requested that they instruct their children to avoid areas where the ice is not solidly frozen.

UPCOMING ISSUES

December 1st there will be a presentation on the request of an Eagle Scout candidate and the Board will vote on liquor license renewals for 2015. The Board will conduct interviews for the Council on Aging Director's position on a date to be determined.

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Boyle moved to adjourn; Mr. Boulter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.