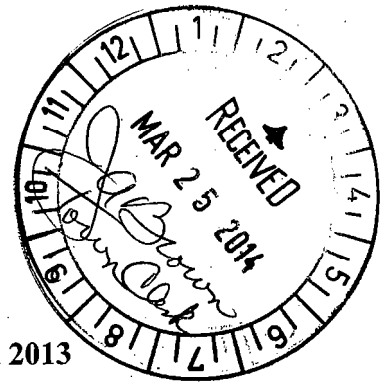




**TOWN OF FREETOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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Assonet, MA 02702-0438  
PHONE: 508-644-2201; FAX: 508-644-3342



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

**COUNCIL ON AGING  
227 CHACE ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

**6:00 P.M. Call to Order**

**6:00 P.M.** Public Hearing: In conjunction with the Board of Assessors relative to selection of the residential factor to determine the percentage of the tax burden to be borne by each class of property. Sheila Scaduto states the Board of Assessors is here to assist the Board of Selectman with the Classification Hearing. They share four items with the Board tonight they are a Classification Sheet, a Historic Items resulting in a Tax Shifts Sheet, Historic Levy Information Sheet and a What If Scenario Sheet. Starting with the Classification Sheet this compares last year's value with the new Fiscal Year's values, the average of a Single family houses for FY13 was \$272,133.00 and FY14 \$276,303.00 which is a 0.2% change in that class. As for a 2 family the average for FY13 was \$269,697 and FY14 \$275,358 0.2% increase. Commercial Values FY13 \$542,337 and FY14 \$538,710 0.1% decrease. Values are essentially unchanged. Selectman Sadeck states there really has been no change. Mrs. Scaduto agrees. She moves to the Historic Levy Shift Sheet which is for the past six years. The Board has no questions on this sheet. The next sheet she moves to is the Historic Items resulting in a Tax Shifts. The past 12 years the town has chosen a shift of 1.45. The next sheet is the What If's scenario. That lifts the tax burden for all classes of property beginning with the single tax rate which if chosen would be approximately a tax rate of \$13.92 per thousand and on the sheet it does up to the maximum shift of 1.5 which would be a residential rate of approximately \$12.40 per thousand and a Commercial/Industrial Personal Property rate of approximately \$20.88 per thousand. FY13 and FY14 were both interim years. Each year by State law the town must do an interim adjustment. The values of the homes are developed by performing an analysis of the sales of based on classification, styles, neighborhood, and size etc. each year and then they are certified by the Department of Revenue. The levy FY14 increased .02%. Overall values in Town increased by .01%. Residential Values increased by .01%. Commercial/Industrial and Personal Property overall decreased by 0.1%. New growth FY14 \$192,359. Broken down it comes to \$117,969 from Residential and Commercial/Industrial \$17,528 and personal property \$56,862. The excess levy capacity \$512,000. Selectman Sadeck asks how they came to that levy limit. Mrs. Scaduto states this is the amount the Town can levy up to. Board of Assessors has no recommendations. Selectman Sadeck asks if the Board of Assessors has any recommendations. Mrs. Scaduto states they have none. Selectman Sadeck says the Board of Selectman will need to determine if they want to keep the shift at 1.45 or raise it or lower it. Selectman Sadeck says we could move the shift and save both sides. Selectman Sadeck states the "What if scenario" shows we move the shift could save both sides tax dollars. Selectman Pacheco says in essence however one of the true statements is a shift is a shift so when you move a shift one way one side will increase and one side

will decrease. Mrs. Scaduto agrees. Selectman Pacheco goes on to say if you change the shift to 1.4 the Revenue will not change is that correct. Mrs. Scaduto agrees. Selectman Sadeck states it would be the shift between what residential and commercial will pay is that correct. Mrs. Scaduto agrees. So Selectman Sadeck maybe he misrepresented what he said then. If we make the shift it may not make both residential and commercial both go down. Selectman Sadeck says if went with a shift of 1.45 to 1.4 then what would happen. Mrs. Scaduto states then the tax rate itself would drop this is correct. Selectman Pacheco says if you compare rate to rate then yes. Selectman Pacheco states if we change the shift then we will change the tax rate for the resident which will be higher and the commercial will be lower. Selectman Baumgartner asks where we could go. Selectman Pacheco says we have tried hard to be frugal and to go crazy we may find ourselves backpedaling. Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) to adjust the shift to 1.43. Passed unanimously. This will put Residential at \$12.61 and Commercial/Industrial Personal Property at \$19.91 down \$.66. These are estimated figures.

**Signing of vendor warrants**  
**Weekly Public Discussion period**

**Consent Agenda**

**Board of Selectmen: Action relative to:**

- Animal Control Officer Lisa Podielsky to address the Board regarding Freetown Animal Shelter. To use the shelter for only known Freetown animals. She states if she knows where they live then she would like to keep them at our shelter and not send them to Lakeville. The problem is if we bring them to Lakeville they may have to wait a whole day and pay Lakeville. If we keep them then they pay us directly. Mrs. Podielsky states Freetown has a contract with Lakeville which we will keep she proposes. It works out well. Selectman Pacheco asks if we have heat and running water etc. Mrs. Podielsky says yes we do. Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) to allow the use of our animal shelter for known dogs only and to have a conversation in a couple of months. Passed unanimously.
- Sign Public Notice for Annual Town Election as submitted by Town Clerk, Jacqueline Brown. Selectman Sadeck reads aloud the notice. Motion (Baumgartner/Pacheco) Selectman Pacheco would like to make sure that the two (2) Regional School Committee positions are correct she thought we staggered these; she would like Mr. Brown to please check on it. Mr. Brown will follow up on this. Passed unanimously.
- Discuss Statutory Notice submitted by Perry, Hicks, and Deshaies, LLP regarding recommends that we pass on this. Mr. Brown. Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) to refuse purchase of land as based on Mr. Brown recommendations. Passed unanimously.
- Approval for Ambulance Fee Abatement – Month of October 2013. Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) to approve the abatement in the amount of \$34,464.30. Passed unanimously.

- Discuss Memorandum of Agreement between the School District and READS Collaborative. Mr. Brown says this was discovered when Fred Baker and he were talking about the Freetown Elementary School lease the Regional School Board needs the Boards approval on this. Mr. Brown thinks this is a good idea. \$6,000.00 and the Town would get this. Selectman Sadeck says the school entered into an agreement on our buildings. How was the prior year's \$6,000.00 handled? Selectman Pacheco says this would go into a designated account that was a revolving fund and approved at Town meeting you may want to speak with our Town Accountant on this. Why are we not leasing to READS. If Lakeville had the opportunity the money would be going back to them as well. Selectman Sadeck says if it is gone now it is gone there is nothing we can do about it. Mr. Paiva, Chairman of the Finance Committee asks how we can let \$6,000.00 just go. Selectman Pacheco says because in essence our assessment went up and the school didn't come back on us. If we start doing this then they can come back on us too. Selectman Sadeck says our dealings with the new administration have been excellent. Mr. Brown states the same and they could have ignored this but they didn't. Mr. Paiva agrees with them. Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) to approve and have the Town Administrator work with Town Accountant to have the money come back to the Town.

#### **Personnel Board:**

- Reappoint John Remedis to the Cultural Council Motion (Sadeck/Pachecko) Passed unanimously.
- Appoint Elizabeth Ashley and Gail Carter to the Cultural Council. Motion(Sadeck/Pacheco)
- Approve Change of Status form for Jeffrey Brum for Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedic, Length of Service Increase, Graham Ashley for Probationary Call Firefighter, and Michael Bonaca, Resignation, Probationary Call Firefighter as submitted by Chief Silvia. Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) Passed unanimously. Selectman Pacheco asks Chief Silvia if we are losing people. Chief Silvia states that Mr. Bonaca resigned and we will be losing 2 two or more in December. Mr. Brown to please send Mr. Bonaca a letter thanking him for his service.
- Approve Change of Status for Christopher Medeiros for a conditional offer of regular full-time Police Officer and Temporary 40 hour Reserve, Change of Status for Kara Pigeon for a conditional offer of regular full time Police Officer and Temporary 40 hour Reserve, and Change of Status for Patrick Lee for Temporary 40 hour Reserve as submitted by Police Chief Abbott. Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) as presented. Passed unanimously. Chief Abbott would like a date set, effective November 30, 2013.
- Approve Change of Status for Kimberley Miller for Dispatch Trainee (probationary), as submitted by Police Chief Abbott. Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) Passed unanimously. Selectman Pacheco asks if we have enough or do we need more. Chief Abbott says we will be coming forth with more dispatch signal operators soon.

- Discuss/Appoint of Planning Board Member and Associate Member as recommended by the Planning Board. Selectman Sadeck recues himself in this discussion. Selectman Baumgartner states three (3) letters recommended. Selectman Baumgartner would like this postponed. We would like the chairman of the Planning Board to come in next Monday. This is on hold.

**New Business:**

- Dates for upcoming Board of Selectmen Meetings: Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> no meeting, Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday January 27<sup>th</sup>.no meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Status of Website upgrade by Virtual Town Hall. – Mr. Brown states there is a meeting for training next 12/5.
  - Status of Financial Management Policy Manual. This was sent out. Take off.
  - Key Fobs for Town Buildings.
  - Employee Handbook Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner). Passed unanimously. Have a meeting with Union reps and everyone involved.
  - Feasibility Study – Consultants have started.
  - Budget Timeline
  - Rochester and Acushnet to reestablish the bounds.
  - Discussion of Freetown Elementary lease agreement with Freetown Lakeville Regional School System - started
    - Snowplowing cost
    - Insurance cost
    - Use of building cost
- LIUNA agreement for Town Hall and Communications. This needs to be communicated with everyone properly.

**Executive Session:**

**Adjournment of regular meeting** Motion (Baumgartner/Pacheco) 7:48 Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ali Golz, Administrative Assistant