

Freetown Board of Assessors
Minutes of Wednesday, November 19, 2019
Multi-Purpose Senior Center – East Freetown, Mass.

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2019 DEC -6 AM 8:42

Present: Mike Motta, Sue Parker, and Jeff Field.

Call to order: Mike Motta called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting with Board of Selectmen

The Assessors attended the classification hearing portion of the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to provide information that would assist the Selectmen in setting the FY20 tax rate. The Board of Selectmen agreed to maintain the 1.43 shift, resulting in approximate tax rates of \$13.02 for Residential (down from \$13.15 in FY19) and \$21.03 for Commercial, Industrial, and Personal Property (down from \$21.08 in FY19). Tax rates may change a penny here or there after final review and approval from the state.

Assessors spoke briefly with the Selectmen and Town Administrator regarding staffing in the Assessors' office. Charlie Sullivan asked to have Dave DeManche meet with the Assessors; George Grunwald requested to be part of the meeting, also. The Assessors will reach out to Mr. DeManche after reviewing and discussing potential options.

At this time the Assessors moved upstairs in the Senior Center to continue their meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Field, to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of Consultant

Ellen Blanchard was unable to attend, but had provided information necessary for the classification hearing.

Report of Clerk

Brief discussion was held on the staffing needs of the office. The Assessors will be reviewing job descriptions and possible restructuring of the office staff. The clerk stated his belief that he should not be part of these discussions, rather the Assessors should determine what they want before getting input.

Mr. Field mentioned the possibility of bringing some of the data collection and fieldwork in-house; the clerk stated that this would be outside the clerical position, so this was again a staffing/structure issue. Discussion was held on rates of pay, and all agreed that the pay rate Karen Mello was receiving was inadequate but dictated by the union contract. Mr. Motta stated that data collectors in some of the offices he's worked in were paid at a higher rate than Karen had been, even though as Assistant Assessor she would be senior to a data collector. Focus will be on creating a non-union position that can be paid properly. The clerk was requested to get rates of pay from similar towns.

Other Business

Motor Vehicle Commitment 06 was signed.

Executive Session

As no new information was available, no executive session was held.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Field, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Senior Clerk