

Freetown Board of Assessors
Minutes of Wednesday, December 4, 2023
Virtual Meeting – Zoom.us

Present: Jeff Field and Paul Sadeck were present at the Town Hall. Mike Motta was present via Zoom.

Absent: None.

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 5:16 p.m. The meeting was recorded by Mr. Sadeck.

All votes taken during this meeting were by roll call.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Sadeck, to accept the minutes of October 16, 2023. The motion carried 2-0-0, as Mr. Motta had not yet arrived. Mr. Motta arrived just after the vote was called.

New Business

- ♦ The FY24 tax rate "Options Table" from the Department of Revenue's Gateway website was reviewed. The table provides the Board of Selectmen with options ranging from 1.5000 to 1.7500 in increments of 0.0050. The current (FY23) shift, 1.5950, is highlighted for reference. General discussion followed on the Options Table.
- ♦ A review followed of the recent field trip to the "Thomas Lucas Lots" property south of Chace Road. Messrs. Field and Sadeck had attended, along with the Assistant Assessor and property owner John Mello. Mr. Mello provided a tour of the property and his agricultural operation. Mr. Mello had clarified for the assessors that the compost on the property is for his own use, and that the seashells on the property are a form of trade/bartering where he stores the shells for limited periods for their true owner in exchange for material to include with his compost.

Recess

A motion was made by Mr. Motta, seconded by Mr. Field, to recess this meeting and reconvene at the police station for the tax rate hearing. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting recessed at 5:45 p.m.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened a little after 6:00 p.m. at the police station with Messrs. Field and Sadeck and the Assistant Assessor present at the police station, and Mr. Motta present via Zoom. The Assessors and Assistant Assessor provided general information to the Board of Selectmen relative to options for the residential factor and tax rate shift. Ultimately, the Board of Selectmen chose a Residential Factor of 0.8340, which resulted in a shift of 1.6250, and estimated tax rates of \$10.48 for Residential and \$20.43 for Commercial, Industrial, and Personal Property.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Motta, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned following the hearing.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Assistant Assessor