

**TOWN OF WEBSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ROBERT MILLER, CHAIRMAN
DONALD BOURQUE, VICE CHAIRMAN
ANDREW JOLDA
MARK DOWGIEWICZ
WILLIAM STARZEC**

A Board of Selectmen's Meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on Monday December 15, 2014. Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Attendance: Mark Dowgiewicz, Andrew Jolda, Don Bourque and Robert Miller

Absent: William Starzec – arrived late

Pledge of Allegiance: Selectman Miller led the Selectmen in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tax Classification Hearing

Chairman Miller opened the public hearing. Marc Becker came forward. He stated the Board of Selectmen in coordination with the Board of Assessors have called a public hearing for tonight for the purpose of holding a Tax Classification Hearing to establish the relative tax burden to be borne by each class of properties for FY 2015. He stated municipalities have several options in distributing the tax levy among taxpayers under property tax classification. He stated there is a single rate or a split tax rate. He stated municipalities must decide whether to tax all classes of property at their full and fair cash valuation share of the tax levy, which results in a single tax rate, or reduce the share of the tax levy paid by the residential and open space property owners and shift those taxes to commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers, which results in a split rate. He went over the Department of Revenue's fiscal 2015 tax levy for Webster. He stated this year the major change was all the debt coming on to the tax rate. He stated the debt included the New Middle School, Bay Path, Police/Fire/Rescue Building, Park Avenue School Project and the Middle School Renovations. He stated the payback period has begun on all these projects. He stated the last couple of year the values of house has dropped. He stated they have since stabilized the last two years.

Selectman Starzec entered the meeting.

Stuart Loosemore from the Webster/Dudley/Oxford Chamber of Commerce came forward. He stated he would like to thank the Board of Selectmen for all their past efforts in bridging the gap between businesses and residents. Mr. McAuliffe stated 6 out of 8 years the Town has shifted less. He stated they are trying to lessen the burden on the businesses. Selectman Bourque asked that Mr. Becker's recommendation to the Board would be. Mr. Becker stated he would like to see the Board narrow the gap and head towards a single rate.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Jolda to have a CIP Shift of 1.30 with an estimated residential factor of 94.1682.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Chairman Miller closed the public hearing.

Board of Library Trustees – Ballot Vote Discussion - Scheduling of Special Election

Jena Travis came forward. Mr. McAuliffe stated the construction of a new library passed at Town Meeting. He stated the next step would be to have a ballot vote. He stated there are a lot of project here in Town and this one is very important. He stated this vote is time sensitive. He stated he has a draft ballot vote language that has been approved by Town Counsel. He stated he still needs to have Bond Counsel review it for their approval. He stated he would like to see if the Board could meet next Monday at 6:30 p.m. to approve the language.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to post a meeting for Monday, December 22, 2014 starting at 6:30 p.m. to approve the ballot language for the Prop 2 ½ override for the Library Project.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Chief Hickey – Declare Fire Alarm Equipment & Old Hovercraft Surplus Property

Chief Hickey came forward. He stated he has a late 1990's Form Four Digital Fire Alarm Reading that he would like the Board to declare surplus. He stated this equipment is not used anymore and is outdated. Selectman Jolda is the equipment was valued at less than five thousand dollars. Chief Hickey stated he would estimate the worth being three to five hundred dollars. Mr. McAuliffe asked if there was a value on the old hovercraft. Chief Hickey stated he did not have a value yet and it was hard to find one for sale that would be comparable. He stated they tried to trade it in for a credit when purchasing the new hovercraft but that company did not want it. Selectman Starzec stated that at least the engine still runs in the old hover craft so someone will find it useful. Selectman Jolda asked if Chief Hickey could wait the required fourteen days before advertising it on Ebay.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to declare the late 1990's Form Four Digital Fire Alarm Reader and the 1990 Hovercraft surplus property.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Chief Hickey/Chief Bent – Declare Items Surplus Property from the Police/Fire Station Building Project

Mr. McAuliffe stated there has been much interest in two floor safes. He stated there was scrapped surplus medals and two safes that were given away without declaring them surplus. Chief Hickey stated they were run down safes that were in the way. Chairman Miller stated there are guidelines that need to be followed when disposing of Town property. He stated everyone needs to follow the policies and procedure that are in place. He stated it was brought to the Board attention that these safes were disposed of without properly declaring them surplus by another Committee. Mr. McAuliffe stated they have had to track these two safes down and have located them. Chairman Miller stated this goes for every department. He stated the Town spent more money trying to track these safes down then what they were probably worth. He stated there should be some sort of accountability. Selectman Jolda stated the Town will have to wait the fourteen days after the Board declares it surplus to sell the item.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectmen Dowgiewicz to declare the two safes as surplus property.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Mr. McAuliffe asked that the Board make the motion more specific.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectmen Dowgiewicz to amend the prior vote to include declaring 1 Macneale & Uban Safe (37" W x 29 ½ D x 59 ½ T) and 1 metal construction safe (name unknown) (36" W x 27" D x 38" T).

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Other Business Unknown at Time of Posting

Chairman Miller stated he would like a copy of the Town's inventory. Mr. McAuliffe stated he gave that to the Board. Chairman Miller stated the Board has been seen an updates inventory list in over two years. Selectman Bourque asked if the Board could get a copy of the updated inventory list.

Chairman Miller stated he would like to take a tour of the Armory Building. He stated he would like to see what is inside. He stated he would be available tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. for a tour.

Mr. McAuliffe stated he would have to see if there would be anything that would prevent that. He stated he will definitely work on setting up a time for Chairman Miller to view the Armory Building. Selectman Starzec asked that all the Board members be able to view the contents of the Armory Building.

Mr. McAuliffe stated he would like to look ahead into January for the next few Selectmen's meeting dates. He stated the Board might want to meet on Monday, January 5, 2015 and Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Selectman Starzec asked the secretary to email those dates to the Board.

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Friedland