



**Select Board Minutes
Monday October 23, 2017 - 6 pm
Holland Town Hall
27 Sturbridge Road
Holland, MA**

Present:

Bettina Schmidt - Chair

Elias Gillen - Member

Lawrence Mandell - Member

Kelli A. Robbins, Esq., Executive Secretary

Call to Order:

Ms. Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion 102317-1, Mr. Mandell to approve minutes of October 3rd. 2nd Ms. Schmidt. So voted Elias Gillen Abstained.

Motion 102317-2, Mr. Gillen to approve minutes of September 19th. 2nd Ms. Schmidt. So voted Larry Mandell Abstained

Meetings with the Board

6:00 PM Tax Classification Hearing.
JoAnn Higgins, Principal Assessor
Ms. Higgins went into detail explaining the difference between a single tax rate and a split tax rate. She also provided documents showing the impact of the smallest allowable change and how detrimental it would be to the small businesses in town. (See attached documents)
Ms. Higgins also explained the Board of Assessors' recommendation to vote against a residential or small commercial exemption.

Motion 102317-3 Mr. Mandell to adopt a single rate with a factor of 1. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So Voted

Motion 102317-4, Mr. Mandell to have no residential or small commercial exemptions. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted.

The tax rate, if approved as is will be \$17.00, which is an 8 cent increase from last year. There is also \$41,866.54 excess levy capacity. Ms. Higgins stated she was pleased that the town did not spend to the levy capacity so the rate would have only a slight increase for the residents.

Lt. Pat Swain – Informed the Selectmen that there would be a drug take back on October 28th at the Community Center from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. They will be taking pills and powders. No liquids or needles. This is free to drop off the drugs, no questions asked.

Lt. Swain also reminded the Selectmen that Trunk or Treat would be the same day at the Town Hall on East Brimfield Road.

Old Business:

PVPC recaptured funds. Mr. Gillen was not present at the meeting where Christopher Dunphy addressed the Select Board seeking the Board's approval of proposed uses of the recaptured Tri-Community grant funding. The money is not money that originated from Holland, nor is it returned to Holland once recaptured. The funds go into an account maintained by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for use in rehab of homes, food pantry in Wales that serves Holland as well and for paying the costs of the PVPC. Mr. Gillen stated he had questions for Mr. Dunphy and asked that he be invited to the next meeting.

Motion 102317-5, Mr. Mandell to invite Mr. Dunphy to the next Selectmen's meeting. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted.

New Business:

Solitude Lake Management has asked the Select Board approve the payment of the water quality testing. The company quoted \$800.00 for the fee but was charged \$1,675.00 by the lab who ran the testing. Mr. Mandell asked if they were contractually obligated to do the testing at the cost quoted. Ms. Schmidt stated she thought they should have to absorb the difference. Mr. Gillen pointed out that we have a long term relationship with the company, who have proved very reliable. In light of that relationship, Holland should pay the bill. Ms. Robbins stated that the company used a different lab than they had in the past and Solitude was very surprised by the cost.

Motion 102317-6 Mr. Mandell to pay the full invoice of \$1,675.00 for the water quality tests performed on the Town's behalf to Solitude Lake Management subject to funds being available. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted.

Announcements:

The following are seeking members
Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 member
OPEB - 2 members

Bylaw Committee - 1 member

Capital Planning Committee - 1 member not affiliated with any other boards or committees

Warrants signed as follows

Wk 17

Wk 18 P \$89,570.80

Public Access –

Mr. Gillen wanted to get a letter to the Select Board in time for this meeting. The letter is a draft recommended by the Lake Oversight Committee. It was not available prior to the posting of the meeting. He asked that the Board review the letter for future discussion. The members received copies of the letter.

Motion 102317 – 7 Mr. Mandell to adjourn. 2nd Mr. Gillen. So voted

Meeting closed 6:33 PM