

Skowhegan Board of Assessors
Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2020

Present: John F. Grohs, Chairman
Bonnie A. Baker, Vice Chairman
Harvey Austin, Jr.

Assessor's Agent: William "Bill" Van Tuinen
Asst. Assessor: Leisa D. Emery-Burns

Others present: Christine Almand, Town Manager
Gail Pelotte, Town Treasurer

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman John Grohs.

II. Minutes to be approved and signed:

1. June 26, 2020, Regular Meeting:

Bonnie Baker made a motion to approve and sign the minutes as written, seconded by Harvey Austin. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

III. Items by the Public: None

IV. Unfinished Business:

1. Central Maine Septic & Portable Toilet Rentals, Map 23, Lot 71A,
abatement request: unspecified (tabled from the June 25, 2020 meeting)

Bill Van Tuinen said he went and reviewed this property and did an interior inspection of this property as directed by the Board at our June Meeting. Bill said the property is in very worn condition and he recommends the abatement in the amount of \$12,900 valuation, which is \$222.40 in taxes.

Bonnie Baker made a motion to grant the abatement as recommended, seconded by Harvey Austin. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

V. New Business:

1. Review amount to be raised:

Bill Van Tuinen reviewed the amounts to be raised by taxation with the Board.

2. Set Mill Rate:

Bill Van Tuinen went over the spreadsheet for calculating the tax rate. Bill reviewed the tax rate calculations with the Board. The minimum tax rate would be \$17.95 and the maximum tax rate would be \$18.85. For discussion purposes Bill chose a tax rate of \$18.00 which would give an overlay of \$52,947.52.

Bill Van Tuinen reviewed a spreadsheet with some example properties showing the difference in taxes from last year to this year. This shows the tax rate increase to \$18.00 but it also shows the increase in the homestead exemption. This spreadsheet was reviewed by the Board.

Harvey Austin asked if we educate the taxpayers on what exemptions are available such as the Homestead exemption.

John Grohs said the same for Veterans.

Bill Van Tuinen said that our office, Gail's office and Christine's office let taxpayers know the homestead exemption is available. Leisa also lets the taxpayers know about the veteran's exemption. We did a mailing the first year of the homestead exemption, but it is too expensive to do mailings. We also put it in the town report every year.

Harvey asked if next year a flyer could be inserted in the tax bills when they are mailed letting the taxpayers know about the homestead and veteran's exemptions.

Christine Almand stated it would cost about \$1,000 to do the insert and Leisa should put that in next years budget, if that is what the Assessor's would like to do. Christine also said the Assessor's office should write up what they want for the insert.

Harvey Austin made a motion to set the tax rate at \$18.00, seconded by Bonnie Baker. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

Bill Van Tuinen prepared the commitment papers and they were signed by the Board of Assessors.

- VI. Chairman's Items:** No
- VII. Member's Items:** No
- VIII. Assessor's Agents Items:** No
- IX. Asst. Assessor's Items:** No

X. Adjournment:

Bonnie Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Harvey Austin. – Vote 3
yes – 0 no

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM

The Skowhegan Board of Assessors

John F. Grohs, Chairman

Bonnie A. Baker, Vice Chairman

Harvey Austin, Jr.

Boiled