

Skowhegan Board of Assessors
Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 27, 2018

Roster: Ronald F. Blaisdell, Chairman
John F. Grohs, Vice Chairman
Bonnie A. Baker (arrived at 4:35 PM)

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

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

I. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman Ronald Blaisdell.

II. Minutes to be approved and signed:

1. August 24, 2018, Regular Meeting:

John Grohs made a motion to approve and sign the minutes, seconded by Ronald Blaisdell. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

III. Items by the Public: None

IV. Unfinished Business: None

V. New Business:

Ronald Blaisdell said while we are waiting for Bonnie Baker to arrive we can take up the supplemental Bill that Leisa Emery-Burns needs approved at this meeting.

1. Brenda Bowden, Tree Growth penalty supplemental tax bill in the amount of \$980.00:

Leisa Emery-Burns explained that we had a written request to remove property from the Tree Growth program. We need to approve the supplemental tax bill, because the penalty tax has already been prepaid.

Ronald Blaisdell made a motion to approve the supplemental tree growth penalty bill for Brenda Bowden, in the amount of \$980.00, seconded by John Grohs. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

2. Set the Mill Rate:

Bill Van Tuinen briefly reviewed the amounts to be raised by taxation and the total valuation of the town.

Bill Van Tuinen said he calculated the mill rate three different ways, on his spreadsheet, using Trio and using MRS tax rate calculation form. They all came out the same. Bill reviewed the net amount to be raised by taxation.

Bill discussed the minimum and maximum tax rates with the Board, the minimum being approximately \$18 per \$1000 and the maximum being about \$19 per \$1000.

Bill said as an example a mill rate of \$18.50 would give an overlay of \$433,356.63. Bill asked if the Board had any suggestions for a rate, or what they are considering for an overlay amount.

Ronald Blaisdell asked what last year's overlay was, and how much was used of the overlay and what the previous couple of years had been.

Last year's overlay was \$146,723.29 and we used \$76,159.44.
The FY 2017 overlay was \$63,461.21 and the FY 2016 overlay was \$62,425.13.

John Grohs asked about a rate of \$18.25, overlay would be \$165,104.33.
Ronald Blaisdell asked about a rate of \$18.15, overlay would be \$57,803.41
Ronald Blaisdell asked about a rate of \$18.20, overlay would be \$111,453.83.

The Board discussed all the possible rates, and what it would generate in overlay.

Christine Almand asked if she could speak.

Ronald Blaisdell gave Christine the opportunity to speak.

Christine Almand stated that as everyone is probably aware in November the Town will be going to referendum vote to see if the taxpayers want to go out to bond for \$8.5 million dollars for a public safety building. If the vote is successful, the bond payment would be due October 1st. Christine said she would like to take the opportunity to increase our surplus by having a slightly larger overlay than usual. Christine said we would need our tax commitment in a more timely fashion if the town is going to make an October 1st bond payment. Having more in surplus would allow us to have more cash in the bank. Christine said she understands the Board usually likes to keep the overlay tight with previous years, but she would ask if the Board would go with a little heavier overlay this year.

Ronald Blaisdell said he feels \$18.20 gives an overlay that is more than the typical year, but the lower mill rate will give some much needed relief to the taxpayers.

Ronald Blaisdell made a motion to set the mill rate, at \$18.20 per \$1,000 of valuation, seconded by John Grohs. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

Gail Pelotte asked some questions in regards to the overlay.

Bill Van Tuinen went to make out a new mill rate calculation sheet, and to make out the commitment papers so that the Board can sign the paperwork tonight.

The Board signed all the commitment papers.

VI. Chairman's Items: None

VII. Member's Items: None

VIII. Assessor's Agents Items: None

IX. Asst. Assessor's Items: None

X. Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

The Skowhegan Board of Assessors

Ronald F. Blaisdell, Chairman

John F. Grohs, Vice Chairman

Bonnie A. Baker

BOA:lde-b