

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**3:00 P.M.**

*The following are considered draft minutes until approved by the Board.*

Selectmen present: Vice-Chairman, Leigh Callaway; and George McCusker. Absent: Don Hill.

Others present: Tom Duling. Bill Huntoon arrived a little later.

Leigh called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Leigh reported the unofficial tax rate information was received from the Department of Revenue. A week ago he and Don met to discuss what amount they would be comfortable with using from the unreserved fund balance to keep the town rate as close to the \$4.00 rate as last year. They both agreed to use up to \$75K if necessary.

Leigh stated the information from the State has the town rate coming in at .11 lower than the rate of last year. He proposes leaving the town rate as is. The new rate is less than \$4.00 so the limit has been met. He would like to see the rate set immediately so the tax bills can be processed and mailed.

He reviewed his worksheet of fund balance encumbrances and possible areas where the fund balance could be used to cover expenditures in the 2015 budget and beyond for capital improvement projects.

George stated if Don and Leigh agreed on \$75K last week, he would like to see the whole \$75K used to lower the town rate.

Leigh cautioned about the concern of drawing the fund balance down too much and the disadvantages to lowering the town rate so far that keeping a stable rate in the future becomes difficult, and could result in a spike to the tax payers at some point. George did not agree as he believes there always seems to be enough in the fund balance.

Leigh discussed the \$25K that was received from the recent sale of tax deeded property. \$25K would lower the town rate by approximately .12. He was willing to compromise with \$25K, which would then make the town rate \$3.77 and would be .23 lower than last year, and would leave a fair FB to get some needed work done without having to increase taxes next year.

George feels the Selectmen have an obligation to take a good chunk of money out of the fund balance each year to reduce taxes. It is money that has already been raised.

Leigh noted his concern that using 75K would reduce the town rate to \$3.53 and next year the rate could go well over \$4.00 and it would be an injustice to taxpayers and he does not want to do that. Using the 25K from the property sale to reduce taxes is the right thing to do. If a

decision cannot be reached they will have to wait until Don is available and that will delay getting the tax bills prepared and mailed.

Money can be used from the fund balance to cover capital expenditures in 2015 that will not have to reduce the tax impact next year.

George states he wants to use more of the fund balance for taxes this year.

Leigh questioned whether George would be willing to go to \$50K? George said he was not.

Leigh noted the Selectmen did not receive tax rate setting information from the State of NH until yesterday afternoon. (November 18<sup>th</sup>).

Leigh and George did not reach a decision and agreed to adjourn this session to Monday, November 24, at 2:00 p.m.

Session adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,  
Administrative Assistant