

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD  
SELECTMEN'S HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR  
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022 – 5:30 PM**

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

**A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Kristi Morris called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm. The delay allowed Town Manager Jeff Mobus to resolve an error in the tax rate data. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Roll Call was taken.

Selectboard Members: Chair, Kristi Morris, Vice Chair Michael Martin, Everett Hammond, and Crissy Webster were present in-person. Walter Martone joined the meeting via Zoom.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus

**B. SET FY2022-2023 TAX RATE**

Chair Morris reminded meeting participants that the tax rates reflect the statistical reappraisal of property that was approved by the State of Vermont in lieu of conducting a full reappraisal. The statistical reappraisal resulted in an average 16% increase in property values.

Town Manager Mobus summarized the budget approved at 2022 Town Meeting as \$13,425,872, an increase of \$580,459. Reported revenue is \$2,811,530, an increase of \$43,212. This results in the need to raise \$10,614,342 in taxes, an increase from FY21-22 of \$537,247. Applying \$200,000 in surplus funds from FY21-22 results in the need to raise \$10,414,342. The Municipal Grand List is calculated as \$6,388,152. The tax rate would accordingly be \$1.6303 per \$100 assessed value.

Special appropriations voted in 2022 Town Meeting total \$210,550 equivalent to a 3.3¢ increase in the tax rate. The paving budget of \$700,000 adds 10.96¢ to the tax rate. Sidewalk construction costs of \$100,000 add 1.57¢. Windsor County taxes of \$40,500 add 0.63¢ to the tax rate. Tax abatements and charge-offs of \$25,553 results in an approximate increase of 0.4¢. **The resulting Homestead Tax Rate is \$3.2106. The Non-Homestead Tax Rate is \$3.2273.**

Town Manager Mobus explained that the Non-residential Education Tax Rate is set by the State of Vermont and is the same for all non-residential property across the state. The town's vote on the education budget only affects the Homestead rate.

**MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to set the FY2022-2023 Homestead Tax Rate at \$3.2106, and the Non-Homestead Tax Rate at \$3.2273.**

**Seconded by: Everett Hammond**

Everett Hammond asked for confirmation of the calculations of the overall tax rate as he had arrived at a different result. Town Manager Mobus clarified that he had not added the line item of Voted Contracts that are based on the education tax rate. There are different Voted Contracts amounts for Homestead and Non-Residential tax rates. The Homestead voted contracts include the statutory exemption for veterans allowed by the State of Vermont at \$10,000. However, about a dozen years ago the Town has voted to increase that veteran's exemption to \$40,000. The Town makes up the difference in that allowance. There are also a few non-residential adjustments for non-profit organizations.

Vice Chair Michael Martin also confirmed the tabulation of Voted Contracts.

**Vote: 5-0, Unanimous by roll call**

**TAX RATE CALCULATION  
BUDGET YEAR 22-23**

|                                      |                     |                 |                    |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOWN TAX RATE:</b>                |                     | <b>\$1.8057</b> |                    |
| APPROVED BUDGET:                     | \$13,425,872        |                 |                    |
| BUDGETED REVENUE                     | -\$2,811,530        |                 |                    |
| <b>VOTED BUDGET</b>                  | <b>\$10,614,342</b> |                 |                    |
| FUND BALANCE USED TO REDUCE TAX RATE | <u>-\$200,000</u>   |                 |                    |
| AMOUNT TO BE RAISED FROM TAX PAYERS  | <u>\$10,414,342</u> |                 |                    |
| <br>                                 |                     |                 |                    |
| <b>GRAND LIST</b>                    | <b>6,388,152</b>    |                 |                    |
| <br>                                 |                     |                 |                    |
| <b>TAX RATE</b>                      |                     | <b>\$1.6303</b> |                    |
| <b>SCHOOL TAX RATE</b>               |                     |                 |                    |
| HOMESTEAD                            |                     | <b>\$1.4049</b> |                    |
| NON-RESIDENTIAL                      |                     | <b>\$1.4216</b> |                    |
| <b>VOTED CONTRACTS</b>               |                     |                 |                    |
|                                      | <u>GL VALUE</u>     | <u>RATE</u>     | <u>AMOUNT</u>      |
| HOMESTEAD                            | \$23,964            | \$1.4049        | \$33,667           |
| NON-RESIDENTIAL                      | \$7,151             | \$1.4216        | <u>\$10,166</u>    |
|                                      |                     |                 | \$43,833           |
|                                      |                     |                 | <b>\$0.0069</b>    |
| SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS               |                     |                 | \$210,550          |
| PAVING APPROPRIATION                 |                     |                 | \$700,000          |
| SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION                |                     |                 | <u>\$100,000</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>          |                     |                 | <b>\$1,010,550</b> |
|                                      |                     |                 | <b>\$0.1582</b>    |
| WINDSOR COUNTY TAX                   |                     |                 | \$40,500           |
|                                      |                     |                 | <b>\$0.0063</b>    |
| ABATEMENTS                           |                     |                 | \$25,553           |
|                                      |                     |                 | <b>\$0.0040</b>    |
| <b>HOMESTEAD TAX RATE</b>            |                     |                 | <b>\$3.2106</b>    |
| <b>NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE</b>      |                     |                 | <b>\$3.2273</b>    |

**FY2022-2023 Tax Rate Comparison**

|  | 19-20<br>PRIOR  | 20-21<br>PRIOR  | 21-22<br>PRIOR  | 22-23<br>CURRENT |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b><u>HOMESTEAD RATE RATE</u></b>      |                 |                 |                 |                  |
| TOWN                                   | \$1.7539        | \$1.8210        | \$1.8302        | \$1.6303         |
| SCHOOL                                 | \$1.7453        | \$1.7704        | \$1.7004        | \$1.4049         |
| VOTED CONTRACTS                        | \$0.0088        | \$0.0091        | \$0.0093        | \$0.0069         |
| SPECIAL APPROPRIATION                  | \$0.1649        | \$0.1891        | \$0.1835        | \$0.1582         |
| WINDSOR COUNTY TAX                     | \$0.0073        | \$0.0074        | \$0.0082        | \$0.0063         |
| ABATEMENTS                             | <u>\$0.0040</u> | <u>\$0.0040</u> | <u>\$0.0040</u> | <u>\$0.0040</u>  |
| <b>TAX RATE</b>                        | <b>3.6842</b>   | <b>3.8010</b>   | <b>3.7356</b>   | <b>3.2106</b>    |
| <b>PERCENTAGE INCREASE</b>             | <b>0.72%</b>    | <b>3.17%</b>    | <b>-1.72%</b>   | <b>-14.06%</b>   |
| <br>                                   |                 |                 |                 |                  |
| <b><u>NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE</u></b> |                 |                 |                 |                  |
| TOWN                                   | \$1.7539        | \$1.8210        | \$1.8302        | \$1.6303         |
| SCHOOL                                 | \$1.6060        | \$1.6629        | \$1.7008        | \$1.4216         |
| VOTED CONTRACTS                        | \$0.0088        | \$0.0091        | \$0.0093        | \$0.0069         |
| SPECIAL APPROPRIATION                  | \$0.1649        | \$0.1891        | \$0.1835        | \$0.1582         |
| WINDSOR COUNTY TAX                     | \$0.0073        | \$0.0074        | \$0.0082        | \$0.0063         |
| ABATEMENTS                             | <u>\$0.0040</u> | <u>\$0.0040</u> | <u>\$0.0040</u> | <u>\$0.0040</u>  |
| <b>TAX RATE</b>                        | <b>3.5449</b>   | <b>3.6935</b>   | <b>3.7360</b>   | <b>3.2273</b>    |
| <b>PERCENTAGE INCREASE</b>             | <b>-1.11%</b>   | <b>4.19%</b>    | <b>1.15%</b>    | <b>-13.62%</b>   |

**C. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)1, the purpose of this executive session is to discuss contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Town Manager Mobus is invited.

Under the provision of 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)2, the purpose of this executive session is to discuss the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase options. Town Manager Mobus is invited.

**MOTION: Crissy Webster moved that the Springfield Selectboard enter Executive Session under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)1 and 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)2, and that Town Manager Mobus be invited.**

**Seconded by: Everett Hammond**

**Vote: 5-0, Unanimous**

The Springfield Selectboard entered Executive Session at 6:05 PM.

The Selectboard returned to open session at 7:21 PM. No further action was taken.

**L. ADJOURN**

**MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to adjourn the July 5, 2022 meeting of the Springfield Selectboard.**

**Seconded by: Michael Martin**

**Vote: 5-0, Unanimous**

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Brian M. Benoit, Recording Secretary *pro tem*.