

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING - SET TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
MONDAY, July 5, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Kristi Morris, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Roll Call was taken.

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

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus and Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne were present in-person. Cathy Sohngen joined via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was not in attendance

B. SET TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Chair Kristi Morris discussed that the purpose of this meeting is a single item and we have received the information from the State on the school tax, so we are able to set our tax rate for the next year starting July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Everett Hammond had technical difficulties with Zoom and joined via phone.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the purpose of this meeting is to set the tax rate for the 23-24 fiscal year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that in some ways there's only one variable that we have, noting that the budgets already been voted by the voters, the appropriations have been voted by the voters, and the grand list has been set and approved, so in general terms of looking at setting the tax rate it is just division. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that there is one variable and that is how much of our reserves that we want to use to reduce the tax rate. Town Manager Jeff Mobus continued that two years ago we had \$400,000 and last year we used half of it \$200,000 and this year we had spoken earlier about using \$100,000 as we step down, so we don't have a sudden jump when we stop doing it.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the rates have all been calculated based on the \$100,000 use of reserves from prior years, so that would leave us with an amount to be raised by taxes of \$11,041,781 the grand list is \$6,440,589 so that the Town tax rate alone is what would be \$1.7144 per hundred dollars of valuation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that in addition to that the special appropriations are \$210,550, the paving appropriation is \$750,000, and the sidewalk construction is \$100,000 and those three items put together \$1,060,550 which constitutes an additional \$0.1647 on the tax rate.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus Discussed that the Windsor County tax is a tax that is assessed to the Town from the county and that adds almost two thirds of cent to the tax rate \$0.0064. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that the last item is abatements, we do the abatements throughout the year for fire damaged properties or mistakes in assessing and we set aside some money to help cover that and that's

\$25,000 which would be \$0.0040 on the tax rate. Town Manager Jeff Mobus further added that those numbers added up equal a Town tax rate combined of \$1.8967.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that there are two tax rates for the school tax rate, there's a homestead tax rate for residential properties and a non-residential rate and those are both set by the state. Town Manager Jeff Mobus asked the Board to approve a tax rate for homestead taxpayers of \$3.3471 and a non-residential tax rate of \$3.3242.

Chair Kristi Morris requested a comparison to last year. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that on the second page for the homestead it would be an increase of 4.25% and for the non-residential it would be an increase of 3%. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that for the homestead it would be from \$3.2106 per \$100 of valuation on your property to \$3.3471 and for the non-residential it's going from \$3.2273 up to \$3.3242 per \$100 of valuation on your property. Chair Kristi Morris noted that this was a net increase of 13.7 cents.

Chair Kristi Morris entertained a motion for the amount to be raised from taxpayers of \$11,041,781 which equates to the grand list tax rate of \$1.7144 cents, the school tax rate is for homestead is \$1.4504 for a total of \$3.3471.

MOTION: Crissy Webster moved to approve the proposed homestead tax rate calculations for the 2023 2024 fiscal year as presented by the Town Manager.

Seconded by: Michael Martin

Further discussion ensued that a copy of the tax rate calculation Budget Year 23-24 would be included with the minutes to help prevent any confusion on the numbers presented.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus commented that one of the questions that people ask is about the grand list, so the tax rate for residential is 4.25% and what we voted on was about a 5% increase and the reason its difference is that the grand list went up just under 1%, so that can help defray what would have been the increase.

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Chair Kristi Morris entertained a motion to accept the non-residential tax rate, this year for the Town is \$1.4275 and the school non-residential tax rate \$1.4275 for total tax rate \$3.3242.

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to approve the proposed non-residential tax rate calculations for the 2023 2024 fiscal year as presented by the Town Manager.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

C. ADJOURN

MOTION: Michael Martin moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Crissy Webster

Vote: 5-0, unanimous

Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that the tax bills would be out by July 15th.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary