

Board of Selectmen
Minutes

Date: November 2, 2016

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Mark Haines

Time: 7:04 p.m.

Update of NERC Solarize Ashby Program given by Roberta Flashman: The program has been quite successful. Got to the lowest price per watt that was part of the contract; 5th Tier. 14 homes are participating with approximately 100kwh of installed solar energy and 10% of the Town is now generating solar energy with their power (residential). For people who cannot afford solar this committee is looking into how to help these residents.

2) Selectmen approve minutes of October 19, 2016 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

3) Selectmen approve minutes of October 22, 2016 as recorded.

Motion: Mark Haines Seconded: Mike McCallum Vote: Unan

4) Warrant #W17-09P FY17 approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$54,042.60 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

5) Warrant #W17-09 FY17 approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$102,982.53 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

Request for Selectmen's approval and signatures for a transfer from CSC's (the State) CAMA to IAS World/Tyler Technology for the Board of Assessors. Lois Raymond, Administrative Assessor: CAMA is old, outdated & in much need of replacement. CSC did the bidding process and is going with IAS. The State received capital to pay for all of the migration & conversion. The fee for support after the transition will only be \$20 more than what we currently pay CSC. It will be cloud based so we can get rid of our CAMA server & save money on our monthly IT fee. Lois encouraged the Board to sign on this MOU which is not a contract but allows us to participate in this conversion with no fees up front. MM further explained the need for this.

6) Selectmen approve and sign the Memo of Understanding between the Town of Ashby and MASS IT stating our intention to convert to IAS World/Tyler Technology for the Board of Assessors.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

Board of Selectmen Minutes
November 2, 2016

7) Selectmen open the Tax Classification Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

Harald Scheid, Regional Assessor explained once a year by law the Selectmen must determine whether to adopt a single tax rate which will be used across all classes of property either residential, commercial, industrial or personal property or what some larger communities do which is different tax rates shifting the burden to commercial properties. Estimated new tax rate will be \$20.83 per thousand (up from current rate of \$20.10. The average residential tax bill will go up approx. \$161 for the year.

Lillian Whitney concerned as to how the tax will affect the solar farm in Town. MH explained to her what this was about & the difference between personal property tax of solar equipment which depreciates. MM further explained this. Harald Scheid also explained the difference between how real estate is valued & taxed & personal property which is equipment. PILOT agreement was a very good deal for the Town. Instead of seeing a declining tax on those solar panels the Town will see a high level tax over the next 20 years.

8) Selectmen approve and sign to adopt a residential shift factor of 1.0 with a corresponding CIP factor of 1.0, thereby maintaining the relative shares of overall tax burden borne by the residential property owners in past years.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

9) Selectmen close the Tax Classification Hearing at 7:30 pm.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman: Mark reported he met with the Boy Scout Troop Leader to discuss possibly using the Grange but, the Grange needs a lot of work.

Assistant Town Administrator's Report: Read by: MM and available on Ashby Website.

Public Comments (if any):

10) Motion to Adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum Seconded: Mark Haines Vote: Unan

Signed by: _____

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____