

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
6:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Select Board Members Present: David Fuller
Joseph Jarvis
Kelly O'Brien
Paul Tillman
Michael Todd

Select Board Members Absent:

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager

Others Present:

Steve Hier			

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

2. Comments from Select Board Members, Town Manager and Residents on Topics not on the Agenda

Mr. Hier said he was present to answer any questions the Board may have regarding school taxes.

The Department of Education has set the education tax rate. Mr. Fuller called it “eye-opening”. He said according to Ed Conner at WSSU, having a CLA of 93.11 may be adding 5 or 6 cents on our tax rate. Mr. Fuller noticed that several towns with CLAs similar to Weathersfield’s had substantially lower tax rates (e.g. Norwich and Woodstock). He said it is important to understand the formula involving the CLA.

Mr. Fuller said our tax bills will be \$0.16 per \$100 higher than last year.

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD

Mr. Hier said school taxes are a statewide tax. They are not based on the grand list or the CLA. They are based on how much the town spends on each student. Equal-spending towns have equal tax rates – the basis of Act 60. So, for example if Weathersfield and Stowe spend the same amount per student, they will have the same tax rate. That will raise a lot more money in Stowe – they will keep what they need to cover their budget, and send the rest to the state. In Weathersfield, it won't hit our budget, so the state will send us the extra money. The more you spend per pupil, the higher your tax rate will be. If the grand list is not at 100% of fair market value, the state increases your tax rate so that you pay as if you were at 100%. It must be fair across the state. Having a CLA of 93 has a 9 or 10 cent impact on the tax rate. The equalized tax rate would be \$1.8552 if we were at 100%. We pay more because we are at 93% of fair market value. We are at \$1.94, more because of our spending than because of our CLA. We are the 6th highest spending district in the state of Vermont.

Mr. Todd commented on the \$0.10 increase in the budget last year and a \$0.16 increase this year - \$0.26 increase in two years. He said the supervisory union was created to reduce costs, but it has failed to do so. He said it's not saving us anything. Mr. Hier said the school budget has seen a 23.5% increase over the last three years. Mr. Todd says this has to stop.

Mr. Fuller stopped the conversation here because he said this was a discussion to be held jointly (with the school board and supervisory union).

3. Set FY2022 Municipal Tax Rate

Description	FY22 Budget	FY22 Cents on Tax Rate
General	\$1,016,018	\$0.0354
County Tax	\$26,433	\$0.0079
Local		
Education	\$22,665	\$0.0068
Highway Fund	\$946,770	\$0.2845
Total	\$2,011,886	\$0.6047

General Fund Tax Rate

Motion: To set the FY22 general fund tax rate at \$0.0354

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Tillman

Vote: All in favor

County Tax Rate

Motion: To set the FY22 county tax rate at \$0.0079

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Jarvis
Vote: All in favor

Local Education Tax Rate

Motion: To set the FY22 local education tax rate at \$0.0068

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Mr. Todd
Vote: All in favor

Highway Fund Tax Rate

Motion: To set the FY22 highway fund tax rate at \$0.2845

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Tillman
Vote: All in favor

Mr. Hier noted that the municipal tax rate is only 5% more than it was 12 years ago.

4. Set FY2022 Quarterly Tax Due Dates

QUARTERLY TAX DUE DATES

Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Wednesday, May 18, 2021

Motion: To accept to accept the FY22 quarterly tax due dates of Wednesday, August 18, 2021; Wednesday, November 1, 2021; Wednesday, February 16, 2022; and Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Made by: Mr. Tillman **Second:** Mr. Jarvis
Vote: All in favor

5. Any Other Business

Mr. Gulnick has moved to Ascutney.

The next select board meeting will be on July 19th. It will include a hearing for zoning bylaw amendments.

Mr. Gulnick asked what the purpose of the budget committee is. He said the committee will be fully seated and they want to be clear what their mission is. Mr. Todd said there is a written document describing the budget committee's purpose.

Mr. Fuller just realized the Board hadn't set the solid waste fee. Mr. Gulnick said that while things continue to move forward with West Windsor, the fee needs to remain at \$50 for another year.

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD

Motion: To set the solid waste permit fee at \$50

Made by: Mr. Todd **Second:** Mr. Tillman

Vote: All in favor

6. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Jarvis **Second:** Mr. Todd

Vote: All in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse

WEATHERSFIELD SELECTBOARD

David Fuller, Chairperson

Joseph Jarvis, Selector

Kelly O'Brien, Clerk

Paul Tillman, Selector

Michael Todd, Vice- Chairperson