

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 21, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman Alicia Cannon at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Cannon, Melia and Nolan. Absent: Chairman James Athanas, Selectman Charles Ampagoomian and Adam Gaudette, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 1) **August 12, 2019.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the August 12, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Mr. Melia, Mr. Nolan and Mrs. Cannon. 2) **September 9, 2019.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the September 9, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Mr. Melia, Mr. Nolan and Mrs. Cannon.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 PM - FY'20 Tax Rate Classification Hearing/Present: Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor. Vice Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to open the public hearing. Roll call vote: Mr. Melia/Yes, Mr. Nolan/Yes and Mrs. Cannon/Yes. Mr. Fitzgerald advised that the Board has 3 options for setting the FY'20 tax rate. 1) The first option would be having a single rate, which spreads the tax burden among all classes of property; 2) The second option is to select a residential exemption; and 3) the third option is to select a small commercial exemption. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the value of real estate rate increased about 5%, which is typical. He stated the new growth is at \$237,000 and not much for commercial or industrial growth. With respect to the Balmer School project, he noted that the first borrowing for the project will add about .98 cents to the tax rate and the second borrowing will be added to next year's tax rate. Continuing, Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he is estimating the FY'20 tax rate to be \$13.84 per thousand, or an increase of .87 cents. As is customary, the Board of Assessors recommends the single tax rate option. No residents were present for questions. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to close the public hearing. Roll call vote: Mr. Melia/Yes, Mr. Nolan/Yes and Mrs. Cannon/Yes. In keeping a single tax rate, the Board of Selectmen is not required to take any vote as there are no changes being made.

APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: Maurice Guilbault, Alternate Inspector of Animals. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to nominate Mr. Maurice Guilbault as the Alternate Building Inspector of Animals. Vote yes/Mr. Melia, Mr. Nolan, Mrs. Cannon.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

MSM Management, Inc., 117 Church Street/Application for Automatic Amusement devices (Digital Juke Box, Pool Table (2), Air Hockey, Pinball, Big Buck Hunter, Golden Tee Golf, Basketball (2), Crane Game Prize(2), Duck Game - prize). Present: Michael McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy stated they are running Sparetime Recreation and are looking to put in some automatic amusement devices, which are leased through a vendor. He also mentioned they will be applying for a liquor license at some point down the road. Selectman Melia asked if there were machines there previously. Mr. Moon, President of MSM Management, replied that there were 8 pool tables and 5-6 pinball machines under the previous owner, Ken Couture. Selectman Nolan asked what their anticipated hours of operation would be. Mr. McCarthy responded the starting hours will be 9 AM to 11 PM but will gauge the hours based on how business goes. He also wants to be open 7 days a week. Selectwoman Cannon asked if they plan on having a bowling club for the Northbridge students, as they used to. Mr. Moon replied they started the bowling club about 2 weeks ago and they have about 20-30 kids that participate. He also pointed out that the Mendon Schools will be participating in November and again in January. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve MSM Management, Inc.'s request for an

Automatic Amusement license on the premises of 117 Church Street, Whitinsville, for the following devices: Digital Juke Box, Pool Table (2), Air Hockey, Pinball, Big Buck Hunter, Golden Tee Golf, Basketball (2), Crane Game Prize (2), Duck Game – prize. Vote yes/Mr. Melia, Mr. Nolan and Mrs. Cannon.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectman Cannon** stated that the Town of Northbridge lost an important member of the community, Mr. Robert Fraser, who died suddenly this past weekend. He was a former member of the Playground and Recreation Commission and did so much more for the youth in town including baseball programs; and he had a huge impact on a lot of residents. Mrs. Cannon expressed her condolences to his wife, Pamela and their children. **Selectman Melia/1)** offered his condolences to the Fraser family on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Northbridge. **2)** asked if the Solar project on Church Street going to Providence Road could be looked at as he received word that the heavy rain the water was coming down the hill and across Providence Road. **3)** announced that town resident, Mr. Warren, is still working hard on getting the duplicate Liberty Bell moved to a public location where spectators can see it on display at the State House. Mr. Melia told Mr. Warren that he would ask the Town Manager to reach out to our State Representatives to let them know our Board supports Mr. Warren. **5)** complemented the Whitinsville Social Library Director and staff as they are very organized, professional and friendly. Selectman Melia commented that he was impressed with the use of technology and the use of the app that can be downloaded on your phone to take out books, music and more. Selectwoman Cannon agreed and added that they run all kinds of programs like classes on using instant pots, and bring in members of the community of all ages. Selectman Nolan added that they also have passes for museums at a discounted rate.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Selectwoman Cannon announced that the next Selectmen's meeting is schedule for tomorrow, October 22, 2019 at 6:30 PM, at the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium followed by the Fall Annual Town Meeting at 7 PM.

A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Cannon, Nolan and Melia.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Nolan, Clerk

/mjw

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

October 21, 2019

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. 1) August 12, 2019

-Copy of August 12, 2019 meeting minutes

2) September 9, 2019

-Copy of September 9, 2019 meeting minutes

II. PUBLIC HEARING: B. 7:05 PM - FY'20 Tax Rate Classification Hearing/Present: Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor

-Copy of public hearing notice

-Copy detailed letter explaining the options for the distribution of taxes

-Copy of tax shifts options table for 2020

-Copy of pie chart diagram representing the valuation by class

-Copy of the fiscal year 2020 tax breakdown

-Copy of surrounding towns tax rate for 2019

III. APPOINTMENTS/C. By the Town Manager: Maurice Guilbault, Alternate Inspector of Animals

-Copy of memorandum from the Board of Health Administrator requesting to nominate Mr. Maurice Guilbault as an Alternate Inspector of Animals

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT

V. DECISIONS: D. MSM Management, Inc., 117 Church Street/Application for Automatic Amusement devices (Digital Juke Box, Pool Table (2), Air Hockey, Pinball, Big Buck Hunter, Golden Tee Golf, Basketball (2), Crane Game Prize(2), Duck Game - prize) /Present: Michael McCarthy

-Copy of application of Automatic Amusement Devices

-Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation

-Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit

-Copy of facility layout

-Copy of License Routing Slip

VI. DISCUSSIONS/None

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

X. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None