

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes
16 School Street, Allenstown, NH 03275
October 27, 2021

Call to Order

The Allenstown Selectboard Meeting of October 27, 2021 was called to order at 5:05 PM by Chair McDonald.

Chair McDonald called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present on the Board: Scott McDonald, Jim Rodger, Sandy McKenney, Keith Klawes,

Excused: Maureen Higham

Allenstown Staff: Derik Goodine (Town Administrator), Debbie Bender (Finance Director), Kris Raymond (Chair of School Board)

REGULAR AGENDA

- **Setting and Approving 2021 Tax Rate and Signing Related Documents**

Ms. Bender presented the calculation of their Municipal Tax rate that the DRA does for them. She said they really had only two choices to make changes to it and they are on page 2. She said the total procreations that are their expenses and also the Sewer Department's, and the revenues, the fund balance that is voted to go to the Capital Reserves was for \$244,900 and then they also have a fund value to reduce taxes, and that is \$509,000. She said also the school had money that is left over that was a little bit more than \$333,000 and they don't actually get the money back, it just lumps into what their revenue would be which is also lowers their tax rate.

Ms. Bender said there is a page that has more information about their unassigned fund allocates.

Ms. McKenney said with regard to the \$500,000 that the Town is putting in, that is the highest amount they have ever done. Ms. Bender agreed. She said that they have always had a very high fund balance, and it is still in good shape. She said that she and Mr. Goodine have been talking about it and if they have to buy anything unforeseen, it will work out well for them in the long run because they should be able to take the bite out of the first couple of years of the new school. Ms. Bender said it does give them some wiggle room and at the end of the year, there should be more money that goes into that fund balance from Covid, etc.

Mr. Goodine said that they have a really high undesignated fund balance and they need to do something with it. He said that they have a big increase coming with the new school, they know they

lost \$500,000 from the state, it's a multi-year plan, so when Optimus comes on, they can pull back otherwise they are looking at a huge increase right now. He said they are still looking at a sizeable increase regardless before anything even happens with the school bond, and next year should be similar to this, and then it will start to decrease.

Mr. Goodine said that China Mill won't be coming on till next year and then it will be 7 years before they are on the tax roll. He said they only get a 50% tax break for the first two years and then it goes to 40%, 30%, 20% and then 10%.

Mr. Goodine said they are trying to provide the appropriate amount for the taxpayers, and they want to build a responsible plan going forward. He said his goal is to keep everything as flat as possible.

Mr. Klawes asked if Mr. Goodine has had conversations with their representatives or senators about the budget and about the fact that the Allenstown representative said they would make them whole. Mr. Goodine said he has not had any of those discussions yet and he is expecting to the following night. Mr. Klawes said his concern about putting \$500,000 in from the Unassigned Fund balance is that Concord will say go ahead and make yourself whole with the Town's savings account. Ms. Bender said the person who is making the decisions on how to fund the school would have not have any knowledge of their fund balance. Chair McDonald said they do not understand how he funding mechanisms work. Mr. Goodine said that is not money you can spend forever.

Mr. Goodine said he provided a document to Chair McDonald that analyzes the tax rate. Mr. Goodine said the \$30,000,000 that was shipped out of the state for meals and lodging because tourists pay most of it, and it could have been brought into the school funding pot to hold harmless the amount that Allenstown just lost. He said they wanted to provide a token tax cut in the meals and lodging when they knew that the State had a problem property tax and school funding problem in the state. Mr. Goodine said he does want to do something for the taxpayers locally.

Mr. Goodine clarified for Ms. McKenney that with the Town putting in \$500,000 from the Unassigned Fund balance and the \$333,000 from the school, the tax rate will be \$31.50. He said the \$309,000 dropped \$1.09 from the proposed \$32.53.

Mr. McDonald still would like to have a meeting with the Representatives to ask for assistance.

Mr. Goodine said if the State of NH would stop taking away their operational education funds, it would go a long way and the relief of the Meals and Lodging tax did not help on the educational side of it. He said he would like to come up with a plan to give enough tax relief to help soften the blow of everything coming together.

Ms. McKenney asked what the wording on the Ballot was for the Warrant Article. Ms. Bender said it was on the MS-737. Ms. Bender said she thought it was a reasonable amount that the Town can afford that leaves them something for sure for next year.

Mr. Klawes asked what that leaves them in the Unassigned Fund balance. Ms. Bender said as of now there will be \$2.1 million. She said they should be putting in another \$300,000 at the end of 2021.

Mr. Klawes disagreed with Chair McDonald and said the elder members of the state legislature do know the state funding works and they are voting their party lines. He fears that if they do not make a big deal of it, then nothing will happen. Ms. Bender said if nothing comes out of it, they are punishing the tax payers because it is their money.

Ms. Bender said the reason you have the fund balance is because you overestimated the expenses and underestimated the revenue. She said the last 50 years you set a tax rate, that is what happened, and because of that, the tax rate was a bit higher. She said that is not necessarily a bad situation because you have a cushion. Ms. Bender said to not use the money when you need to, the tax rate would go up even more and it is their responsibility to serve the people they are taxing for their property. Ms. Bender that is the only way you can affect any change for local residents aside from going to Concord to campaign.

Mr. Klawes said the new school has no bearing on today's tax rate. Chair McDonald said it does. Mr. Goodine said the school has a \$500,000 increase over last year. He said they were supposed to have a \$1.09 increase from the land purchase which would impact the school.

Ms. McKenney asked if they are definitely going to see an increase next year. Mr. Goodine said they need to make it clear to the taxpayers that they are going to get an increase this year.

Chair McDonald said he thought the proposal to keep the tax rate down is fair.

Mr. Goodine and Ms. Bender said they are both in agreement with this approach.

Chair McDonald made a Motion to approve and sign the Tax Collector's Warrant in the amount of \$4,992,588.00 with interest rate of 8% per annum from December 9, 2021 thereafter on all sums not paid on or before that day. Ms. McKenney seconded the Motion.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Scott McDonald- Aye

Sandy McKenney- Aye

Keith Klawes- Aye

Jim Rodger-Aye

The Motion passed unanimously.

Chair McDonald made a Motion to approve setting the final 2021 Municipal tax rate of \$31.50. Ms. McKenney seconded the Motion.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Scott McDonald- Aye

Sandy McKenney- Aye

Keith Klawes- No
Jim Rodger-Aye

The Motion passed 3-1.

Ms. McKenney said it's too much to give the first year and she is not happy. Mr. Goodine said next year they might be able to soften it when Optimus comes in. Ms. Bender said there is no way for the tax rate to not go up and the new school will improve the Town and get benefits.

Mr. Klawes made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:11pm. Ms. McKenney seconded the Motion.

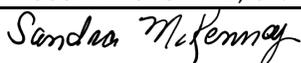
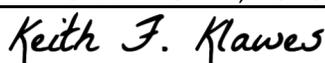
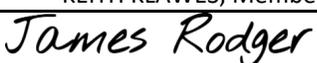
A roll call was taken.

Scott McDonald- Aye
Sandy McKenney- Aye
Keith Klawes- Aye
Jim Rodger-Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Allenstown Town Hall
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
October 27, 2021

SIGNATURE PAGE

Original Approval:		
		01 / 25 / 2022
SCOTT MCDONALD, Chair		DATE
		01 / 25 / 2022
SANDY MCKENNEY, Vice Chair		DATE
		01 / 25 / 2022
MAUREEN HIGHAM, Member		DATE
		01 / 26 / 2022
KEITH KLAWES, Member		DATE
		02 / 01 / 2022
JIM RODGER, Member		DATE
Amendment Approvals:		
Amendment Description:	Approval:	Date:
	SCOTT MCDONALD, Chair	DATE
	SANDY MCKENNEY, Vice Chair	DATE
	MAUREEN HIGHAM, Member	DATE
	KEITH KLAWES, Member	DATE
	JIM RODGER, Member	DATE

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01 / 25 / 2022

23:52:13 UTC

Sent for signature to Scott McDonald (smcdonald@allenstownnh.gov), Sandra McKenney (smckenney@allenstownnh.gov), Maureen Higham (mhigham@allenstownnh.gov), Keith Klawes (kklawes@allenstownnh.gov) and Jim Rodger (jrodger@allenstownnh.gov) from dgoodine@allenstownnh.gov
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VIEWED

01 / 26 / 2022

00:01:33 UTC

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01 / 26 / 2022

00:02:00 UTC

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01 / 26 / 2022

00:04:25 UTC

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