

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Select Board Special Meeting
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
October 24, 2018

Call to Order

The Allenstown Select Board Special Meeting of October 24, 2018 was called to order by Chairman Ryan Carter at 6:04 p.m. Chair Carter called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present on the Board: Sandy McKenney, Dave Eaton, Ryan Carter

Allenstown Staff: Derik Goodine, Town Administrator; Debbie Bender, Finance Director

Others Present: Town Attorneys Sharon Somers and Chris Hilton

Property Tax Rate

Ms. Bender stated that the new preliminary tax rate is \$30.34 per thousand, down from \$32.11 last year. She suggested using some of the Unassigned Fund balance to reduce the tax rate. Currently, the unassigned balance is 19.95 percent. The DRA recommends having a fund balance between eight and seventeen percent, so Allenstown is 2.25 percent above the maximum. She said that \$125,000 will probably be added to the Capital Reserve account, the same amount as last year. Ms. Bender would like to create a new Capital Reserve account for revaluation, which happens every five years and costs about \$64,000. Putting \$16,800 into a Capital Reserve account will cover that. She then said that using \$56,000 of the Unassigned Fund balance to lower property taxes would bring the rate down to \$30.15 per thousand. She said she recommends this because it does not put Allenstown in financial jeopardy, because it is a goodwill gesture, and because this is the taxpayers' money and there is enough surplus that some should go back, in her opinion. The Unassigned Fund balance would still have almost \$100,000 more than the maximum recommended reserve amount.

Ms. McKenney said this would be good because the residents need a tax break. She said she wished the School Department could go in the same direction.

Mr. Goodine said that this might allow them to soften the blow from the School Department budget next year.

Ms. McKenney said this is using the Town portion to help the School.

Chair Carter said it is helping the residents and he likes the idea.

Mr. Eaton asked if this is the overall rate, including all four components of the tax rate.

Ms. Bender said that it is. She said she will call the DRA tomorrow.

Mr. Goodine stated that they might need a brief non-public session for a payroll change at the next meeting.

On motion of Mr. Eaton, duly seconded by Ms. McKenney, it was voted unanimously to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (I) at 6:12 p.m. (meeting with legal counsel)

On motion of Mr. Eaton, duly seconded by Ms. McKenney, it was voted unanimously to return to public session at 7:16 p.m.

Chair Carter stated the public had been invited to join then in the office and no one took them up on the offer

On motion of Mr. Eaton, duly seconded by Ms. McKenney, it was voted unanimously to authorize the Town Attorney to engage in legal action as discussed.

On motion of Mr. Eaton, duly seconded by Ms. McKenney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.

DRAFT

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 SELECT BOARD
 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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Signature Page

Original Approval:	
RYAN CARTER, Chair	DATE
SANDRA MCKENNEY, Vice Chair	DATE
DAVID EATON, Member	DATE

Amendment Approvals:		
Amendment Description:	Approval:	Date:
	RYAN CARTER, Chair	DATE
	SANDRA MCKENNEY, Vice Chair	DATE
	DAVID EATON, Member	DATE