

Waterbury Select Board
July 2, 2018
7:00
Minutes

Present: C. Viens, chairperson; M. Metayer, N. Fish, select board members; W. Shepeluk, municipal manager; A. Imhoff, ORCA

Chairperson Viens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The board considered the agenda. Shepeluk asked that the board consider adding a request for a Class 4 liquor license to the agenda. The request was from Eden Specialty Ciders. **M. Metayer made a motion to approve the agenda, noting that the agenda should have been dated July 2, 2018. His motion included adding the liquor license request. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and was approved unanimously.**

The board took up the minutes of the June 18th meeting. **On a motion made and duly seconded (Metayer/Fish) the board voted to approve the minutes 3-0.**

No public was in attendance.

The municipal manager presented a request from Eden Specialty Ciders for a license to sell liquor and to offer sample “tastings” from July 1- October 31, from a booth at Pete’s Greens on Rt. 100 in Waterbury Center. **M. Metayer made a motion to approve the request and N. Fish seconded the motion. The motion was approved without dissent.**

W. Shepeluk presented a table describing the tax rates that he recommended setting for the 2018 calendar year. See attached. He stated that while the legislature kept the Homestead Tax Rate for education unchanged from FY2018, it went up in Waterbury by 7.1 cents, after adjustments for district spending decisions and the CLA. He stated that the Non-Residential Tax Rate for education was set by the legislature about 2% higher than the FY2018 rate. The Non-Residential rate was adjusted for the CLA and is 7.15 cents higher than it was a year ago. Shepeluk reported that the municipal grand list increased by only .593%. The estimate was 1.5%. He explained to the board that the “Utility” category declined in value by \$2.77 million and that alone represents a loss of about .4% of value. In spite of the fact that the grand list was nearly a full percentage point below the estimate, Shepeluk recommended setting the municipal tax rate at \$.45/\$100 of valuation. He also explained that the exemptions to disabled veterans, greater than the exemption of the first \$10,000 of valuation allowed by state law would cost \$.0017/\$100 of valuation rather than last year’s \$.0014/\$100 of valuation. **On a motion made and duly seconded (Metayer/Fish) the board approved the following tax rates for the FY 2019 education tax and the 2018 municipal tax:**

- **Homestead Education Tax: No greater than \$1.6183/\$100**
- **Non-Residential Education Tax: No greater than \$1.6013/\$100**
- **Municipal Tax: \$.45/\$100**
- **Veterans Exemption: \$.0017/\$100**

The board took up the issue of penalties for the late or inaccurate filing of homestead exemptions. The manager stated he preferred a flat fee rather than a percentage of the tax bill as a penalty for late or mistakenly filed homestead declaration, but as that was not allowed by Vermont law, he recommend a 3% penalty across the board for all bills that needed to be adjusted. After a long discussion about the effectiveness and fairness of said penalty, the select board members seemed inclined to keep the penalties in place that were adopted last year, suggesting that the penalty should be higher for those whom might benefit from making a mistake with the filing. As such, **M. Metayer made a motion to set the penalties at 3% and 5%, as had been decided a year ago. N. Fish seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.**

Shepeluk brought to the board a request to allow the “100 on Route 100 Road Race” to proceed through town on state and local highways on Saturday August 18, 2018. The logistics of the race and its clean up were discussed briefly. **N. Fish made a motion to allow the race as described. M. Metayer seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.**

M. Metayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. N. Fish seconded the motion. The board voted 3-0 to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Approved: July 16, 2018