

Town Council Meeting Minutes September 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

Councilors Kuhn, King, Hemphill and Cahan were present and answering roll call.

Councilors Svedlow, Asherman and Ferrante were absent.

Item 1 Report from the Town Manager and Finance Director on the proposed tax rate for FY2018/19.

Mr. Poore discussed the process of setting the tax rate. The rate for this year came to \$16.47. Growth in the Town was at 1% overall and 10% in the TIF district. The overlay is large this year because the Town is carrying two large projects in it: the first year of the senior tax assistance program which comes to \$75,000, and the auditing error on the Town's business equipment tax exemption that was uncovered by the State of \$171,000. The Council chose to take care of that all in one year instead of spreading it across three years. The tax increase is bigger this year than in past years due several items, including a loss of State Aid for Education and an increase to the Town side of the budget. The Tax Assessor is planning the commitment this week, and bills will go out in the next few weeks. The first installment of taxes will be due November 1.

Councilor Cahan wondered if there was a way for Councilors to try and get back some of the State Aid for Education. Councilor King said the MMA has this on their watchlist.

Councilor Kuhn said the Finance Committee should consider some long-term strategy to address this. It is a problem that is unlikely to go away.

Item 2 Public Hearing on an ordinance amendment to Section 19-23.11 of the Code of Ordinances relative to extending the time limits for development under the Tidewater Master Development Plan for one additional year.

Chair Hemphill opened the public hearing; there was no public comment.

Mr. Poore gave an update on the Town's proposed purchase of undeveloped land in Tidewater. He projected that a purchase and sale agreement will be ready for the Council to consider at their October 10 meeting, but he will need to engage an appraiser for the property prior to that. He said the agreement with the Trust will take until January to finalize, but the Trust is comfortable with the basic terms and conditions that have been outlined so far.

The order was scheduled for September 24.

Item 3 Order to appoint two members to the Library Board of Trustees.

Councilor Kuhn explained that the Board has three members that are appointed by the Town. The appointments committee has interviewed and is recommending the appointment of Michael Boyd for a term of October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2021 and Shikha Vasaiwala for a term of October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2020.

Chair Hemphill opened a public comment period; there was no public comment.

Councilor Kuhn moved the slate of appointments; Councilor King seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 4 Introduction of amendments to the maximum levels of income and expenses for the General Assistance program, Chapter 6, Article 6, Section 6.68, Appendices A-D of the Falmouth Town Ordinance.

Mr. Poore explained that the state establishes these tables every year, but the Town must adopt them by ordinance every year. Municipalities have the option to create their own tables but would need to conduct a study. No municipality in Maine has chosen that option to his knowledge.

A public hearing was scheduled for October 10.

Item 5 Order to schedule a public hearing on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, regarding the November 6, 2018, referendum question concerning the expansion and renovation of the Falmouth Memorial Library.

Chair Hemphill opened a public comment period; there was no public comment.

Councilor Kuhn moved the order; Councilor King seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 6 Order to approve a supplemental appropriation and transfer of \$30,000 from unassigned fund balance to pave a portion of Route 100.

Mr. Poore explained that, at a recent community forum on the status of the Route 100 project, they did a straw poll of the attendees on the proposed paving. Most of those that participated were not in favor of spending the money before the infrastructure project begins, but Jay Reynolds, Director of Public Works, is concerned about the condition of the road and maintaining it during the upcoming winter. He is still recommending the paving. He felt the cost of maintenance and liability risks outweigh the cost of paving.

Chair Hemphill opened a public comment period; there was no public comment.

Councilor Cahan moved the order; Chair Hemphill seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 7 Order to nominate a Councilor to the GPCOG Regional Voice Committee.

Chair Hemphill explained that Ned Kitchel formerly served on this committee. It meets four times a year.

Chair Hemphill nominated Councilor Cahan; Councilor Cahan accepted the nomination.

Chair Hemphill opened a public comment period; there was no public comment.

Councilor King moved the order; Councilor Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn

Councilor King moved to adjourn; Councilor Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Tryon
Recording Secretary