

MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2007
WARREN SELECT BOARD
WARREN MUNICIPAL OFFICE
3:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mac Rood, Barry Simpson, Burt Bauchner, Erin Russell-Story, Kirstin Reilly.

OTHERS PRESENT: Priscilla Robinson, Elaine Fuller, Cindi Hartshorn-Jones

3:10 PM – Meeting called to order by Mr. Rood, Chair.

The total budget that the voters voted at town meeting day was \$1,750,378. Anticipated estimated revenue in the report was \$346,378 and a tax stabilization charge amount to General Fund was \$43,000. After much work in looking at expenditures to date, income to date by Ms. Robinson, Ms. Fuller and Ms. Jones, there was additional unexpected revenue of \$124,506.00. After subtracting the unanticipated revenue, the total amount to be funded to operate the town was \$1,625,872. Then dividing the grand list total of \$3,689,328 by the total expenditures gives you a tax rate of 44 cents discussion followed on reducing that rate.

Ms. Fuller handed out the Education Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2008. The Homestead Tax rate based on the Common Level of Appraisal of 52.71% is \$2.32. The Non-Residential Tax Rate is \$2.58 a .26 cent difference. Ms. Robinson explained that the board has no authority or control over the Education Tax Rates just the town tax rate. Ms. Robinson explained that this year will be a hard year for tax payers and that the board should be somewhat sensitive of this. Ms. Robinson, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Fuller suggested to the board that they use some of the Capital Funds to offset the General Budget since there is an expenditure to offset the amount in the same category and that this would help keep the rate down under \$3.00 for this year as taxpayers are struggling with paying their taxes. Mr. Bauchner had strong reservations about taking money from the capital accounts that was allocated to certain items. It was one of the ways to help offset a high tax rate. Ms. Robinson indicated that in her operating budget, she would have included \$100,000 allocated to spend for the expenses in the town wide appraisal mandated by the state. Funds have been reserved for this purpose in the Capital Budget, therefore her operating budget could be reduced by \$100,000 and the reappraisal costs charged against the Capital Budget, as planned and approved by the voters at town meeting. The grand list at April 1, 2007 as presented by Lister Robison is \$3,689,328. Every \$36,000 reduction in the town operating budget allows a \$.01 reduction in the town tax rate. Thus the \$100,000 reduction in the lister's operating budget, allows a \$.03 reduction in the town tax rate, from \$0.44 to \$0.41.

Motion by Mr. Bauchner to set the Town Tax Rate at .41 cents, second by Mr. Rood. All in Favor: VOTE: 5-0.

Ms. Jones suggested that the board acknowledge Ms. Robinson and Ms. Fuller for the extensive time and work involved in preparing of setting a tax rate. Mr. Simpson, and the board acknowledge and thanked them for their hard work and time.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Ms. Cindi Hartshorn-Jones

Warren Select Board

Mac Rood, Chair

Barry Simpson

Burt Bauchner

Erin Russell-Story

Kirstin Reilly