

DRAFT

PRESENT: J. E. Ziolkowski, Chairman; L. M. Smith, Vice Chairman; E. B. Beattie, Selectman; L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.

REQUEST FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECALCULATE TAX RATE: L. A. Ruest referred the Board to a request from Nancy Tuttle of SAU 21 requesting a recalculation of the Hampton Falls 2018 tax rate based on the following:

1. On the March ballot the voters approved a bond for the school, within that warrant article was an appropriation for the first year interest payment (due in February 2019) in the amount of \$73,841.
2. When the bonds were sold in June the actual first year interest payment is \$106,793.
3. According to RSA 33:2 DRA has the authority to increase this appropriation. An increase of \$32,952.

The Board considered the request in conjunction with input from Bruce Kneuer of the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) noting that the Board has the options to:

- Consider the request of SAU (RSA 33:2 (Municipal Finance Act) requires the amount to be included); there is an official appeal window that will expire by November.
- Authorize the DRA approved 2018 set tax rate to be struck and recalculated.
- Authorize the DRA to allow the School District to add the appropriation for the amount of approximately \$33,000 LAS addition bond interest (\$73,841 vs. \$106,793).
- Note that the DRA will look at all again on behalf of Hampton Falls; Town Administrator to re-process paperwork with new information.
- Preliminary information (before actual DRA finalization) estimates a seven cent increase in tax rate previously set at \$20.45.

Lengthy discussion took place with regard to approving/disapproving the request, whether the SAU has funds to cover this oversight without affecting the set 2018 tax rate, the intent to correct the problem, concerns of budgets going forward and other potential options to the Board.

L. A. Ruest reported that the Selectmen's tax bill stuffer outlining the details of the 2018 Tax Rate previously approved will need to be revised, recopied and folded. In response to a request that the SAU assist with this, the SAU has offered to allow the Town to use its supplies, copier and folding machines.

MOTION: To approve the request of SAU 21 and authorize the School District to add the additional appropriation for bond interest and also authorize the DRA to recalculate the 2018 tax rate and continue discussion of finalizing the 2018 tax rate to Tuesday, October 30, 2018, 9:30 a.m..

MOTION: E. B. BEATTIE

SECOND: L. M. SMITH

UNANIMOUS

OTHER BUSINESS:

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2019 HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT AGREEMENT: L. A. Ruest presented a packet of grant documents on behalf of the Police Chief to the Board for signatures. The grant provides funding to assist with several public safety traffic safety measures. The Board signed the pages requiring signature/initialing.

MOTION: To approve the Highway Safety Grant Agreement as prepared by the Police Department.

MOTION: L. M. SMITH

SECOND: E. B. BEATTIE

UNANIMOUS

PROCLAMATION: The Board reviewed and signed a proclamation recognizing Road Agent Richard “Dick” Robinson’s retirement on October 31, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.