

**DRAFT**

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

**SETTING OF THE 2019 PROPERTY TAX RATE** (TAX RATE OATH (RSA 75:7)): The Board reviewed the unofficial preliminary 2019 tax rate information from the Department of Revenue Administration with regard to applying an amount of the Fund Balance, as well as applying an overlay amount, to set the tax rate.

A great amount of discussion took place with regard to the importance and purpose of the Undesignated Fund Balance to include the Board's ability to utilize a portion of this balance to offset the tax rate each year. The Board reviewed the history of tax rate setting 1999-2019 and the details of the Fund Balance Policy of retaining five to 15 percent in conjunction with the 2019 information received from the NH Department of Revenue Administration on behalf of Hampton Falls.

A tax rate of \$22.36 was recommended, an increase of \$2.46 over the previous tax rate.

**MOTION:** To apply the amount of \$0 to set the tax rate of \$22.36, using \$25,000 as overlay, leaving a Total Retained Fund Balance of \$441,732 or 3.59% of General Fund Operating Expenditures.

**MOTION: L. SMITH**

**SECOND: L. GARGIULO**

Additional discussion took place with regard to the options to the Board in conjunction with the potential increase in tax rate as well as the percentage of fund balance retained.

**VOTE: 1 IN FAVOR, 2 OPPOSED, DOES NOT PASS**

A tax rate of \$22.11 was recommended, an increase of \$2.21 over the previous tax rate.

**MOTION:** To apply the amount of \$120,000 to set the tax rate of \$22.11, using \$25,000 as overlay, leaving a Total Retained Fund Balance of \$321,732 or 2.61% of General Fund Operating Expenditures.

**MOTION: L. GARGIULO**

**SECOND: E. BEATTIE**

Additional discussion took place with regard to the options to the Board in conjunction with the potential negative impact on cash flow.

**VOTE: 2 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED, PASSES**

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This information will be forwarded to the Department of Revenue Administration for review and final approval. The Board will sign a Tax Rate Oath with a rate of \$22.11 at its November 6 meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The Board agreed that it would be helpful to provide a document of information as part of the tax bill mailing. A bar chart and pie chart will be prepared to assist taxpayers with an understanding of the categories in which tax dollars are distributed and spent. This information will be shared with the Schools and Library, posted and emailed to web site subscribers as well.

The Board also determined that the December 4 Selectmen's meeting agenda should include the topic of the 2019 Tax Rate.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

**MOTION: L. GARGIULO**

**SECOND: E. BEATTIE**

**UNANIMOUS**