

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
August 22, 2023

Present: Terry Bergeron, Chair; Tim DeMillo, Vice Chair; Tom Goding, Lee Ann Dalessandro, Gary McGrane, Shiloh LaFreniere, Town Manager

Guests: Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Paul Binette (O'Donnell & Associates), Jill Gingras, Finance Director

1. Pledge of Allegiance –Tim led the pledge.

2. Sewer & Tax Commitment – Shiloh provided the Board with the sewer commitment amount that is based on the rates that the Board approved in the spring – base rate \$320 for 3200 cf and .10 cents/cf above the 3200 base. Total sewer commitment: \$492,452.90.

M/M/S Lee Ann/Gary to approve the Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates. Vote 5-0-0.

Paul provided the Board with two tax rate calculation forms. One using \$0 from the undesignated fund balance which resulted in a mil rate of 27.85 and another using \$1.5 million from the UFB which resulted in a mil rate of 23.0. There was discussion regarding the option to take additional funds to lower the rate, including the future unknowns around the State legislation needed to correct the penalty for using UFB during a sudden and severe event; the costs related to the June 29th storm and potential FEMA declaration; the revaluation that is scheduled for 2025 and the expected increase in property values; the senior tax stabilization program that will not be in effect after this year; as well as the general unknowns that towns face regarding tax revenues. Gary indicated that he would like to see more utilized from the UFB to lower the rate this year. Others stated that they were comfortable with the amount used and preferred to have savings available for the coming years, recognizing that future offsets may be needed.

Paul also discussed the revaluation set for 2025 and the intended valuation update that will take place in 2024 to adjust values across the board to maintain the towns ratio as close to 100% as possible so that residents recognize the full value of the homestead and all taxpayers, including personal property, remain as close to full assessment as possible until the revaluation occurs.

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to set the mil rate at \$23.00 per \$1,000 of valuation. Vote 4-1-0. (Gary opposed)

M/M/S Tim/Tom to adjourn.