

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen
Highway Commissioners
Cemetery Commissioners

**November 27, 2017 @ 6:30pm
Dudley Municipal Complex
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA
Room 321A
Approved 12/11/2017**

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

John Marsi opened the meeting at 6:30pm. In attendance were Jonathan Ruda, Paul Joseph, Kerry Cyganiewicz and Steven Sullivan. Also in attendance was Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary. Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator, was absent.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Paul Joseph motioned to approve the minutes of November 13, 2017 as printed. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 5-0

Steven Sullivan motioned to approve but not release the Executive Session minutes of November 13, 2017. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

3. Appointments/Resignations:

- a. Management Information Systems (MIS) Director – Deborah Thibaudeau – **Paul Joseph motioned to reappoint Deborah Thibaudeau as the MIS Director. Her term to expire 12/31/2018. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 5-0.**
- b. Fire Station Building Committee – Justin Dolan – Mr. Dolan came before the Board. He stated that he has been overseeing the construction up at Nichols College and involved in all of the aspects of the building processes. After discussion **Jonathan Ruda motioned to appoint Justin Dolan as a member of the Fire Station Building Committee. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous 5-0.**

4. Public Comments/Citizens Comments – Informational:

5. Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Balukonis was on vacation – No report for this meeting.

6. Licensing/Permits:

7. Public Hearing:

Tax Classification Hearing - The Public Hearing opened at 7:00pm. Lisa Berg, Principal Assessor, came before the Board. She prepared a packet for Board members to follow through her presentation. She stated that the Residential/Commercial and Personal Property did not change much from last year. The top taxpayers in Dudley are Gentex, Hammal (Webco) and Massachusetts Electric (Personal Property). On October 11, 2017 the Department of Revenue approved our assessments. Dudley is ranked 64th lowest tax rate in Massachusetts out of 351 communities.

Regarding taxes, a single family average tax bill will increase 6%, Commercial 3% increase and Industrial a 9% increase if we keep a single tax rate. The assessment went up this year so the tax rate goes down (Prop 2 ½). Regarding the total assessed values by class, FY18 totals decreased slightly. This was due to loss of some Chapter Land and lost of a few Personal Property accounts over \$10,000 since they moved out of the community. Due to the fact that Dudley does not have a lot of large businesses but rather small local businesses the Board of Assessors recommend a single tax rate. Paul Joseph is requesting we reach out to our Senator and Representative regarding our tax rate and Chapter 70 funding. Jonathan Ruda stated that we self- inflicted this low tax rate when the State passed Proposition 2 ½ years ago. The Public Hearing closed at 7:21pm. **Paul Joseph motioned that the Board of Selectmen accept the recommendation of the Board of Assessors and the Principal Assessor, Lisa Berg and maintain a single tax rate for the next fiscal year. Kerry Cyganiewicz seconded. Unanimous 5-0.**

8. Public Business:

a. Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC)– Update – Michael Spahl, Chairman of the FSBC came before the Board. He stated that the design/development phases of the project is completed and the architects are ready to go. There is an easement behind the building that is being addressed. He is hoping to put the project out to bid in late winter/early spring for a General Contractor and Sub-Contractors. Mr. Spahl stated that they are in budget and on track. He is also appreciative that the Board appointed Justin Dolan tonight since he is a knowledgeable in all aspects of project management. The Board thanked him for his update.

b. Village Street – Parking issues near Dippin’ Donuts – Chief Steven Wojnar addressed the Board by stating that he has been working with the Highway Superintendent, Dan Gion on temporary signage in the area. He would like to bring the owners of Dippin Donuts in to discuss a permanent solution. Steven Sullivan stated that he was approached by a resident who thought it might be advantageous for school buses to be rerouted away from Village Street. In all, the Board feels the best solution is not to have cars parked in No Parking zones and other areas dangerous to public safety.

c. Southern Worcester County Communications Center (SWCCC)– The Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) that is on the agenda was approved at our July 10, 2017 meeting but did not include a signature page. All members signed the page to be forwarded to Greg Lynskey, Director of SWCCC.

d. Tentative Dates for Board of Selectmen Meetings: Paul Joseph motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen regular meeting schedule as listed on our agenda at tonight’s meeting. Jonathan Ruda seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

9. Departmental Communications:

10. Adjournment:

Steven Sullivan motioned to adjourn at 7:24pm. Paul Joseph seconded. Unanimous 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary