

Town of Becket
Select Board Meeting Minutes
5:00 p.m., April 8, 2022
Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket

Attendees

Select Board: William Elovirta, *Chairperson*; Michael Lavery, *Clerk* Absent: Chris Swindlehurst, *Vice Chairperson*

Staff: William Caldwell *Town Administrator* (remote attendance); Beverly Gilbert, *Administrative Assistant and member of the Board of Assessors*

Other: Harald Scheid, owner of Regional Resource Group, Geri Walter, *Board of Assessors Chair*; Doug Walter; Sandy and John Sayward; Larissa Shpitalnik, and Al Blake

1. Call to order

BE called the meeting to order at 5pm. He indicated that the SB was recording the meeting.

2. 5:00 PM, Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 56 M.G.L. the Select Board will hold a public hearing regarding property tax classification according to use class.

At BE read the above captioned agenda item and read the public hearing notice stating that the Select Board must make a determination on the factor to be used among the classes of real property, residential, open space, commercial and industrial, and of personal property for the Fiscal Year 2022 tax rate. BE opened the public hearing at 5:01pm and introduced Harald Scheid, owner of Regional Resource Group, the town's contracted assessing company. Mr. Scheid presented and fielded questions during the public hearing. He provided a handout which listed calculations relating to setting the Town's tax rates. He specified that in accordance with DOR regulations, municipalities with a large commercial and industrial tax base often shift the tax burden to help maintain lower residential taxes. Mr. Scheid explained that given Becket's small commercial and industrial base, it would take a large shift of the tax burden from the residential class to the commercial and industrial class to yield a modest residential tax reduction. BE indicated that traditionally the SB has adopted a single rate.

Harald discussed reevaluation and described principal factors that impact assessing structures and land. He explained that the Commonwealth requires that municipalities configure assessments based on market values. BE and Mr. Scheid indicated that if a property owner believes the assessment is incorrect, the party may submit an abatement application to the Board of Assessors.

ML moved that the Becket Select Board votes in accordance with MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2022 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the town's annual tax recap (estimated rate of \$10.80) by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. BE 2nd: Motion carried. ML moved to close the hearing: BE 2nd: unanimous. At 5:27pm, BE closed the hearing.

3. Any other business to come before the Select Board

ML moved to grant Papa Bob permission to change the start time of its Common Victuallers permit on Sunday, May 29th, 2022 to 9am to accommodate Indian Lakes Annual Meeting (meeting may occur on the outside deck, no liquor, no entertainment). BE 2nd. Motion carried.

4. Select Board to adjourn the meeting

ML moved to adjourn the meeting, BE 2nd: Motion carried. BE adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Gilbert, Administrative Assistant

Signed by:



William H. Elovirta, *Chair*

/ April 20, 2022

Date Approved