

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Swanton Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488**

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 @ 5:00 p.m.

Present: Joel Clark, Selectboard Chair; John Lavoie, Selectboard Vice Chair; Jeff Raleigh, Dan Billado, and James Guilmette, Selectmen; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Cathy Fournier, Town Clerk; Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Agenda Review

Mr. Clark added "Damage to Fairpoint Aerial Cable" under Any Other Necessary Business.

C. Review Financial Documents & Set Tax Rate

Mrs. Fournier explained the veteran exemptions, adding that the town had to pay for the credit for veterans. An article for an extra \$1000 was added to the budget for the food shelf, as approved by the voters. She explained how the other items affected the tax rate. The total amount that had to be raised for the general fund and highway fund through taxes was \$2,075,537.60. The general fund had to raise \$913,452.74 and the highway fund, with police and fire protection, had to raise \$1,162,084.86. Last year's tax rate for residential was 1.5944, and this year's will be 1.6395. Last year's tax rate for non-residential was 1.7465 and this year's will be 1.7826.

The library and the fire department had gone up. The actual 2016 educational rates were slightly higher than last year. Mrs. Fournier explained what she anticipated for zoning, land records, rail road tax, and other revenues, which she used to adjust/calculate the tax rate. Mr. Lavoie summed up that the tax rate looked like it was going up by about 2 percent. Mr. Clark added that it was \$10 million in total, including the school taxes.

Mr. Billado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to accept the tax rates as proposed by the town clerk. Motion carried.

D. Any Other Business

Mr. Clark talked about the damage to the Fairpoint aerial cable on Tabor Road, for which the town had been billed over \$3000. Mr. Garrett had said he had not been aware of the damage done by the excavator as he was working in the area. Mr. Lavoie said work near sensitive equipment/areas should have a spotter. It was noted that John Lavoie and Joel Clark would be interviewing with Richard Copperthwaite tonight.

E. Adjournment

Mr. Lavoie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guilmette, to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.

Received and filed by:

Cathy Fournier, Swanton Town Clerk

Date