

Alexandria Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2017

- **Members Present:** George Tuthill, Robert Piehler, and Chet Caron
- The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- The minutes of the October 31, 2017 meeting were approved.
- **Items Reviewed and Signed**
 - Intent to Cut Wood or Timber: Map 413 Lot 12 Kevin Cassidy
 - Tax Collector's Warrant: 2017 2nd Issue Taxes
 - Letter to Taxpayers regarding tax rate increase for 2017 (Attached is copy of the letter read at the meeting)
- **Business**
 - The Selectmen reviewed a request from the Friends of the 2017 NRHS Field Hockey Championship Team requesting help in raising funds to purchase 2017 State Champion jackets for the team. The Selectmen felt the Town could not contribute at this time, but would post notice of the request for members of the public.
 - The Selectmen discussed whether to include a warrant article for repairs to the old town hall; further discussion is required before a decision is made.
 - The Selectmen reviewed a request from a taxpayer to skip the December payment on that property tax repayment agreement; the Selectmen approved the request.
 - The Selectmen reviewed a survey completed for a portion of Berry Farms Road. There is concern that abutters are encroaching in the road. The Selectmen will review the information with Town Counsel.
 - The Selectmen offered condolences to Ken Hall after his wife's passing.
 - The Selectmen set a tentative date for the 2018 Budget Hearing as Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm pending confirmation from the Budget Committee.
 - The First Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 10:00 am.
- **Appointments**
 - Representatives from Transport Central were present to provide information on their program. The program provides transportation to and from medical appointments. They are also looking for volunteers to work with the program.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Dostie, Administrative Assistant

November 21, 2017

Dear Taxpayer,

We realize there has been a significant increase in the property tax rate for 2017. The largest increases are the school portion of the tax rate which increased by \$2.32 and the Town portion which increased by \$1.71. We thought it might be helpful to address concerns regarding the increase in the tax rate.

- The budget and warrant articles voted on for 2017 totaled \$1,961,348; this is an increase of \$177,858 over 2016.
- As a result of the town-wide revaluation of property values done in 2016 and the decreased value of the power plant as a result of it closing, the overall valuation of the town decreased by \$2,837,647. This would increase the tax rate even if the budget had remained the same.
- In prior years, we have utilized funds from the unassigned fund balance to help off-set the tax rate. As a result of the heavy storm damage in October, we had to request emergency use of \$256,035 from the unassigned fund balance. This did not leave us with enough funds available in the unassigned fund balance to off-set the tax rate for 2017.
- The total amount the school district needed to raise by taxes increased by \$1,916,847; Alexandria's portion increased by \$423,098.
- The State Education Tax and County Tax increased slightly.

On the reverse of this page, there is a breakdown of the tax rate compared to previous years.

If you have any questions regarding the tax rate, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 603-744-3220.

Best Regards,
Alexandria Board of Selectmen

George Tuthill, Chair

Robert Piehler

Chet Caron

Below is a breakdown of the tax rate for 2017 as compared to previous years.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Town	\$7.16	\$5.45	\$5.09	\$4.83	\$4.23	\$ 4.28	\$ 5.57
County	\$1.76	\$1.66	\$1.47	\$1.53	\$1.56	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.50
School	\$14.03	\$11.71	\$12.12	\$12.17	\$13.01	\$11.60	\$12.70
State	\$2.22	\$2.18	\$2.32	\$2.47	\$2.45	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.60
Education							
Total	\$25.17	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.26	\$19.96	\$22.37

Abatements: An abatement is a request to refund some of the taxes paid on a property. Abatement requests generally fall into two broad categories: physical description errors and valuation opinion differences. To receive a copy of your assessment record card that shows what is listed for the physical description of the property and property value, please contact the Selectmen's Office at alexandrianh@metrocast.net or 603-744-3220.

Annually, after receiving the final tax bill of the year, property owners may file a formal request to review their property's assessment. The request must be made in writing and must be filed by March 1, 2018. If you wish to file an application for abatement, you may obtain the form from the selectmen's office during regular hours. Abatement forms are also available online at www.alexandrianh.com. More information about abatements can be found on our website at www.alexandrianh.com/page65.php