

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

Present: Vice-Chairman John C. Drobinski, Selectman Lawrence W. O'Brien, and Town Manager Maureen G. Valente

Absent: Chairman William J. Keller, Jr.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:36 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

**Opening Remarks**

At 7:36 p.m., Vice-Chairman John C. Drobinski opened the meeting. He announced that Chairman Keller is out of town and will be absent tonight.

**Public Hearing: Tax Classification**

Present: Assistant Director of Assessing Cynthia Gerry, Chairman of the Board of Assessors Trevor Haydon, and members Liam Vesely and Joshua Fox

At 7:36 p.m., Vice-Chairman Drobinski opened the Public Hearing to determine what percentage of the local tax levy will be borne by each class of real and personal property relative to setting the FY 2010 tax rate, which was continued from January 11, 2010.

Town Manager Valente reported that the Town received the valuation information from the State's Department of Revenue too late this afternoon to prepare sufficient information for review at tonight's scheduled joint hearing of the Selectmen and the Board of Assessors. Ms. Valente asked the Board to consider hearing citizen input tonight, and to continue the hearing to tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

Representing Sudbury's Chamber of Commerce, Burt Mullen, expressed to the Board the growing difficulties experienced by the business community during a challenging economy. He noted that, currently there are 35 "For Rent" signs posted in the downtown area, and it is becoming a challenge for landlords to negotiate leases. Mr. Mullen emphasized that the Town's different tax rate for commercial and residential properties is an additional burden for businesses. He asked the Board to consider having the same tax rate for all properties, as is done in some surrounding communities, so Sudbury property owners can fairly compete for tenants. Mr. Mullen stated it is in Sudbury's best interests to not have empty storefronts. He encouraged the Town's assessors to consider as part of their assessment calculations how much the rental incomes of commercial properties have decreased in recent years.

Charlie Orr, supported Mr. Mullen's comments and stated that commercial property owners are uncomfortably squeezed by increased or stable operating costs coupled with decreasing rental incomes. He believes the split commercial residential tax rate in Sudbury augments an already difficult situation for business property owners.

Vice-Chairman Drobinski thanked the representatives from Sudbury's business community for their feedback. He also thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the many ways it positively contributes to Sudbury's quality of life throughout the year.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To continue the Public Hearing to determine what percentage of the local tax levy will be borne by each class of real and personal property relative to setting the FY2010 tax rate to January 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

**Reports from Town Manager**  
**New Police Chief – Swearing-in Ceremony**

Town Manager Valente announced that the swearing-in ceremony for Lt. Richard Glavin as Sudbury's new Police Chief will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at Town Hall (prior to the Board's next meeting on that evening at 7:30 p.m.).

**Regional Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services - Membership**

Town Manager Valente reported that it is likely that the anticipated timeframe to transition from receiving Advanced Life Support (ALS) services from Emerson Hospital to another provider (with the assistance of Emerson until September 1, 2010) will need to be expedited by several months. Although Sudbury has prepared well for the transition, many other surrounding communities have not given enough attention to the pending elimination of these services by Emerson. In the coming weeks, Ms. Valente and other area town managers/administrators will reach out to neighboring communities to highlight the time-sensitivity of this issue.

**Executive Session**

At 7:49 p.m., Vice-Chairman Drobinski announced the close of the regular meeting and it was on roll call unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining.

Vice-Chairman Drobinski announced regular session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen G. Valente  
Town Manager-Clerk

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
(7:52 P.M – 8:05 P.M.)

Present: Vice-Chairman John C. Drobinski, Selectman Lawrence W. O'Brien, and Maureen Valente,  
Town Manager

Absent: Chairman William J. Keller, Jr.

**Collective Bargaining - Police - Update**

Town Manager Valente provided the Board with a summary of the counter proposal submitted to the Town by the Police Union. In addition, she provided the Board with Assistant Town Manager Wayne Walker's comments relating to the counter proposal. Ms. Valente stated that the Town would hold firm to retain a "poison pill" provision regarding contractual payments by the Town for Quinn benefits in relation to future scenarios. She also noted that the agreement would include a 15-minute extension to work schedules at the end of shifts. The Town believes this revision could save \$5,000 -\$10,000 in current overtime costs. Mr. Walker will research this option further with Police Chief Glavin to ensure that no additional overtime obligations will be incurred in weeks when officers work more than 40 hours.

Town Manager Valente further noted that the Union has agreed to eliminate longevity instead of reducing Hazardous Duty Pay. This is anticipated to save approximately \$7,000 -\$8,000. In addition, the Union has presented a proposal for drug and alcohol testing..

The Town will next meet with the Police Union to continue collective bargaining discussions on January 20, 2010 and with the Firefighters Union on January 19, 2010.

The consensus of the Board was that Ms. Valente's and Mr. Walker's responses to the Police Union's counter proposal seem appropriate, and the Board encouraged pending discussions to proceed as described this evening.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Maureen G. Valente  
Town Manager-Clerk