



**SELECTBOARD
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
TOWN HALL
1 SOUTH ROAD
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027**

Minutes of December 18, 2020
Meeting held via Zoom

The Tax Classification Hearing opened at 5:30 p.m. by Phil Dowling.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson.
Present from Board of Assessors were Paul Nevins, Walter Morrey, and David Zagorski (Assessor Assistant).
Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

The Tax Classification Hearing was posted and published on the town website for 5:30 p.m.

David Zagorski reported the Department of Revenue did not certify valuations due to a variance of \$120,000 in industrial land use. The Fiscal Year value for that class is higher by that amount from Fiscal Year 2019. The disclosure period is complete, changes were made to approximately five properties in response to public review. David has been working on finding where the difference comes from, and explained it could be something the new Vision software picked up. He plans to continue to work on it until he finds it and submit it to the Department of Revenue. The classification hearing cannot be closed until the final valuations are certified.

Phil motioned to continue the Tax Classification Hearing at 6:30 p.m., December 21. Second by Teri.
So moved by roll vote:
Phil Dowling-yay
Teri Anderson-yay
Maureen Dempsey-yay

Hearing adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Continuation December 21, 2020

The continuation of the Tax Classification Hearing opened at 6:30 p.m. by Phil Dowling.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson. Present from Board of Assessors were Paul Nevins, Walter Morrey, and David Zagorski (Assessor Assistant).
Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

David Zagorski presented a written summary of the values of the tax classifications (attached). The anticipated single tax rate for FY21 is \$20.64/thousand (FY20 was \$20.32). The assessors recommend not splitting the tax rate. He answered questions from the board regarding exemptions then explained the summary. D Zagorski responded to a question regarding open space. He explained it's a land use code not used in Westhampton. Phil motioned to accept the Assessor recommendations and approve a single tax rate classification for Fiscal Year 2021. Second by Maureen. Phil opened discussion to floor and

answered one question.

Motion called and moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-yay

Teri Anderson-yay

Maureen Dempsey-yay

Phil motioned for no open space exemption for Fiscal Year 2021. Second by Teri.

So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-yay

Teri Anderson-yay

Maureen Dempsey-yay

Phil motioned for no residential exemption for Fiscal Year 2021. Second by Teri.

So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-yay

Teri Anderson-yay

Maureen Dempsey-yay

Phil motioned for no small commercial exemption for Fiscal Year 2021. Second by Maureen.

So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-yay

Teri Anderson-yay

Maureen Dempsey-yay

The Tax Classification Hearing closed at 6:55 p.m.

Documents submitted:

-Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Classification Summary

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held December 28, 2020

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson