

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016

**Present:**

Selectboard: Eric Osgood, Doug Molde, Michael Dunham, Kyle Nuse  
Others: Duncan Hastings (Administrator), Rosemary Audibert (Clerk),

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order**

Eric called the meeting to order at 4:35.

**2. Changes, Additions to Proposed Agenda**

- a. Mowing of the Rail trail
- b. Town employee salaries
- c. Error and Omission adjustment to Grand List and abatement G.L. adjustments
- d. Tax Stabilization
- e. Town Administrator/CEDD negotiation update

Duncan stated that the error & mission on the grand list is on the Pomerleau card the gas tanks have not been removed and should have been removed from the grand list value and it was not. The reduction should have been \$25,700, with a new grand list value of \$1,108,500. **Mike moved to reduce the grand list value on the Pomerleau property by \$25,700 for the removal of the gas tanks, Doug seconded, so voted.**

Board reviewed spreadsheet showing the tax stabilizations figures for the Pomerleau property. Currently in year 4 of the 5 year agreement, which is 60% of assessed value and next year will be 75%. Butternut Farms is the second tax stabilization agreement, which does not include school tax only municipal taxes

Board reviewed spreadsheet for the 2016-17 tax rate for a municipal tax rate of .7298. Board of abatement did abate two trailers in Rings Trailer Park that could amount to a hundred dollars. The spreadsheet does include the adjustment for Pomerleau and the tax abatement for Jeff Mongeon property. Rosemary recommends rounding up the tax rate to .73 as there is only about a hundred dollars difference in the amount raise to the amount needed and there may be additional errors & missions to the grand list. The additional .0002 would raise about \$420.00. This tax rate is slightly less than last year's rate. Duncan stated the tax rate published in the town report does not include adjustments for the tax stabilization contracts. **Mike moved to set a town tax rate of .73 for the tax year 2016-17, Doug seconded so voted.**

Duncan stated that at the joint board meeting with the trustees agreed to set the shared employees with a 1% increase in salary. Eric stated that this should have been on the agenda for the last board meeting. Board reviewed salary spreadsheet with a one percent increase. With the budget the proposed salary for the administrator and community development director there is \$65,000.00. Duncan recommendation is to give the highway employees the same 1% increase as all the others are receiving and work on the pay scale over the next year. No longer have listers, do not have to set a wage for them, auditors for a 1% increase and the part-time highway crew which right now is only one

employee. Library salaries are set by the library trustees. The line for road foreman shows a 1% increase from the 6 month valuation increase of \$1,500. **Mike moved to authorize the increase in compensation by 1% to all town employees starting for the first payroll in July, Kyle seconded, so voted.**

Doug stated he rode his bike to Jeffersonville on the rail trail and in Johnson the trail needs to be mowed. Need to show Johnson in a good light and this should be mowed. Cambridge has mowed part of the trail that is in Cambridge. People will start there ride in Cambridge and look for Johnson to get there food and drink, trail is getting a lot of usage. Eric asked is there a coordinated effort with VAST for mowing. Duncan stated he received an email from VAST last week for the three towns asking that the trail be mowed twice a year. Brian to bring this up at the next Board meeting. Brian has concerns about twice a year with the amount of time that it takes. Duncan suggested mowing once but do more than one swap do a larger area of mowing to keep the brush from growing. Brian is now having Jason going out when he has a couple of hours.

Dawn Tatro came to the meeting for the discussion on setting the tax rate. Eric stated that has been done and is slightly lower than last year. Dawn stated she would like to be more involved with the community.

Doug stated the trail is not an emergency but Brian should try and fit this in as this is important. Board agreed.

**Mike moved to go into executive session for a contract negotiations inviting Duncan and Rosemary at 4:58 p.m. Kyle seconded, so voted.**

Board came out of executive session at 5:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Rosemary Audibert, Clerk