

**ROCKINGHAM SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, June 30, 2016**

Present: Ann DiBernardo, Lamont Barnett, Joshua Hearne

Absent: Peter Golec, Stefan Golec

Also Present: Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Ken Hunt

Press: Tory Jones Bonenfant, Eagle Times

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Lamont Barnett.

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting:

- Stearns presented a driveway access permit for Kenneth Hunt for 156 O'Brien Road. Stearns stated that he, along with the Highway Superintendent and the Zoning Administrator have visited the site and met with the applicant. *Ann DiBernardo made the motion to approve the driveway access permit for 156 O'Brien Road as presented. Motion was seconded by Joshua Hearne. Motion passed.*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person):

- Stearns distributed a letter received from a neighbor of 38 Green Street with concerns about the property. Stearns also distributed a memo from him and Health Officer Chuck Wise on the process and activities to date.

Agenda:

1. Set FY2017 Tax Rate: Stearns noted that the educational rates that were supposed to be forwarded to the towns today have not been received yet and asked the Board to make a motion to approve the educational rates as they become available. *Joshua Hearne made the motion to set the Town of Rockingham Municipal tax rate at .9763 and accept the educational tax rates as and when these are provided by the Vermont Department of Education for fiscal year 2017. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed.*

DiBernardo asked Stearns if he had an estimate of what these would be. Stearns stated that \$1.58 homestead and \$1.46 non-residential, but these are subject to change.

Other Business:

- Barnett stated that he had read an article that lists Bellows Falls as the poorest community in the State. Barnett noted that he compared his house value of \$130,000 with others in Windham County and the average would be around \$2,262 and the amount he pays is \$3,195. DiBernardo asked why this is? Barnett stated that he believes a lot of it is the services that are provided in this community. Stearns stated that the educational rate is what is killing this community. The Board discussed this and will revisit this at budget time.

Executive Session: No executive session was necessary.

Adjourn: *Joshua Hearne made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Ann DiBernardo. Motion passed.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk