

September 9, 2019

**Joint Meeting  
Board of Selectmen  
Board of Assessors  
September 9, 2019  
Town Hall**

Amended

**Present:**

Mary Blanchard, Chairman  
Mary Dowling, Vice Chairman  
Michael Suprenant, Clerk  
Priscilla Gimás

**Absent:**

Chase Kaitbenski

**Staff:**

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator  
Andrea Mensen, Administrative Assistant

**Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:30pm**

**The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance**

**Fiscal Year 2019 Classification Hearing**

Selectman Suprenant read the public hearing ad that was posted in the Southbridge Evening News.

Ann Murphy, Principle Assessor, Paul Murphy, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, and Dale Meehan, Secretary of the Board of Assessors, introduced themselves to the Board of Selectmen.

Ann Murphy, Principle Assessor, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding four different issues that the Assessors would like the Board of Selectman to vote on. Those issues included:

- Selection of a CIP Factor
- Open Space Discount
- Residential Exemption
- Small Commercial Exemption

Ann discussed:

- The difference in tax amounts from FY2019 to FY2020
- What a vote on the CIP factor would include
- The current vs. proposed tax rate
- An example of the minimum residential factor at work
- The impact of a split tax rate
- What a vote on the open space discount would include
- What open space taxation in Sturbridge includes
- An example of open space taxation

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- What a vote on the residential discount would include
- What the 35% tax rate impact would be
- An example of the residential 35% exemption
- What the 15% tax rate impact would be
- An example of the residential 15% exemption
- What a vote on the small commercial exemption would include
- What kind of businesses would be eligible for the exemption
- What applying the exemption to Sturbridge would look like
- An example of the small business exemption
- The impact of the small commercial exemption

The Board of Assessors recommended that the Board of Selectmen vote to adopt a single tax rate, vote not to adopt the open space discount, vote not to adopt the residential exemption, and vote not to adopt the small commercial exemption.

The Board of Selectmen discussed that the properties in Sturbridge are showing a greater valuation.

Selectman Suprenant stated that one factor that plays a role in stabilizing the Town's tax rate is new growth, and he asked about new growth over last year. Ms. Murphy went over the breakdown of new growth in the Town over the last year, stating that it was the Town's average yearly growth.

**Motion: To close the public hearing By: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Suprenant**

**Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Kaitbenski Absent)**

**Motion: To adopt a single tax rate By: Selectman Suprenant**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectwoman Gimas**

**Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Kaitbenski Absent)**

**Motion: Not to adopt the Open Space Discount By: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Suprenant**

**Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Kaitbenski Absent)**

**Motion: Not to adopt the Residential Exemption By: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Chair Blanchard**

**Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Kaitbenski Absent)**

**Motion: Not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption By: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Suprenant**

**Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Kaitbenski Absent)**

### **Adjourn**

**Motion: To Adjourn at 7:13pm By: Selectwoman Gimas**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Selectman Suprenant**

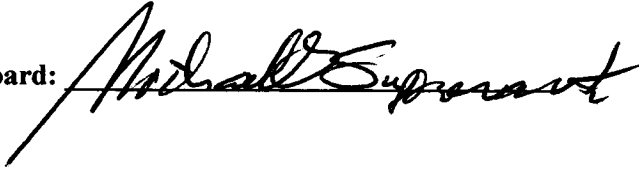
**Vote: All in Favor (4-0) (Selectman Kaitbenski Absent)**

**Adjourned at 7:13pm**

**Minutes prepared by: Andrea Mensen**

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Clerk of the Board:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Supravat", written over a horizontal line.

Date signed:

10-07-2019