



Town of Burlington

BURLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING – Tuesday, June 28, 2016

- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Carl Salsedo, Roger Powell, Jim Chard and First Selectman Ted Shafer. David Bereza was not present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Review/Accept Minutes of June 14, 2016. Minutes reviewed and modification discussed for Agenda Item II“Motion to approve minutes by Selectmen Powell/Bereza, not Powell/Chard”
Motion made seconded and passed unanimously to accept the June 14, 2016 minutes with modifications discussed above. (Powell/Chard),
- III. **Citizen Comments**
Barbara Dahle commented on the Planning/Zoning process in general. She said we have town regulations and state statutes that need to be followed despite individual’s wants and self-interest. She said the same comments apply to the appointment of the open P&Z vacancy.
- IV. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**
 - A. Michael D’Amato was present and expressed his interest in the Planning and Zoning position vacancy and gave a brief background of himself. He has been a resident since 1985 and currently lives on Charolais Way. He is retired after 38 years in the marketing management area. He states that he has an open mind, will be fair and is aware of the P&Z regulations.

As per past practice with multiple candidates for one open position, the Board of Selectmen took a meeting recess to discuss and make decision in another room at 7:11pm. After a short recess, the meeting continued at 7:23 PM.
Motion made seconded and passed unanimously to appoint Michael D’Amato to the open position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. (Chard/Powell)
- V. **Selectmen’s Reports**
Selectmen Roger Powell – None
Selectmen Jim Chard - None
Selectmen Carl Salsedo – None
Selectmen David Bereza – Absent
Selectman Ted Shafer - None
- VI. **Commission on Senior Citizens – Tax Abatement**
Members from the Commission on Senior Citizens were present and discussed in-depth the research they have done regarding potential tax abatement programs for older residents. Referenced Connecticut Legislative Commission on Aging document, “Property Tax Relief for Older Adults: A Profile of Connecticut Local Program January 2015 (Updated February 2015)”. Presented were three different options for consideration:
 1. Tax Freeze Option: If a resident meets the senior qualifications, taxes will be frozen as of July 1 of the qualifying year. Qualifying seniors will continue to pay the same level of taxes throughout the remainder of their lives or until they no longer meet qualifications. Age (65+), years of residency (3 years), and primary residency (183 days living in residence per year) should be considered for qualification standards. Only one homeowner from each residence needs to qualify. Residents must register through the Tax Assessor’s Office. The tax abatement will not be collected upon sale or transfer of said property. Residents are required to reapply every 2 years. Residents who do not qualify, may reapply the next year.
 2. Tax Pool Option: The Town of Burlington will allocate \$200,000 in the annual town budget for senior tax abatement. If a resident meets the qualifications, taxes will be adjusted as of July 1 of the qualifying year. Residents can apply from February 1st – May 15th. The \$200,000 will be divided among those that apply and qualify. Age (65+), years of residency (3years), primary residency (183 days living in residence), and yearly income (\$70,000) should be considered qualification standards. Individual caps should be considered for this abatement (\$2,000 per person). Only one homeowner from each residence needs to qualify. Residents must register through the Tax Assessor’s Office. The tax abatement will not be collected upon sale or transfer of said property. Residents are required to reapply every 2 years.

Residents who do not qualify, may reapply the next year.

3. **Additional Income Tiers on Current Abatement:** This option would be to add in two (2) additional income tiers to the current local tax abatement. Addition of \$50,000-\$60,000 income level with a \$330 tax abatement. Addition of \$60,000-\$70,000 income level with a \$330 tax abatement. All current qualifiers and administrative procedures would remain the same. Residents are required to reapply every 2 years. Residents who do not qualify, may reapply the next year.

First Selectman Shafer thanked them for all of their hard work and indicated they should meet with the Board of Finance as the next step

VII. Burlington Volunteer Fire Department

Tim Tharau discussed proposal to upgrade the public safety communications system for the fire department and ambulance. Current coverage for the town is about 50% . New system would get us to 90% coverage. Adding this system would be part of the new Lake Garda Fire House project made possible by savings on construction costs. The issue of appropriate procurement process will need to be further discussed and decided upon at future meetings along with required support documentation from Bristol and Canton.

VIII. Tax Collector – Tax Exempt Properties

- A.** Letter from Allison Yudelson was discussed, Tax Collector, Dated June 2, 2016. Regarding: Taine Mountain – Assessor’s Map 1 Block 06 Lot 11
Under the provisions of Connecticut State Statutes, Section 12-81d, this letter will serve as notification that the property listed on the attached deed has been transferred to the Town of Burlington on May 20, 2016 by Jennifer Ventres Filler. Section 12-195 states that the said real estate shall be exempt of any taxes or assessments levied by the municipality until such real estate is sold.
- B.** Letter from Allison Yudelson, Tax Collector was discussed, Dated May 5, 2016. Regarding: 32 Monce Road – Assessor’s Map 10 Block 06 Lot 119
Under the provisions of Connecticut State Statutes, Section 12-81d, this letter will serve as notification that the property listed on the attached deed has been transferred to the Town of Burlington on March 3, 2016 by foreclosure by sale. Section 12-195 states that the said real estate shall be exempt of any taxes or assessments levied by the municipality until such real estate is sold.

IX. Executive Session

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to enter into executive session at 8:32 PM. (Chard/Salsedo), to discuss Personnel: AFSCME and NAGE Agreements, Real Estate Acquisition Status.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to leave executive session at 9:40 PM. (Powell/Salsedo)

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:41PM. (Salsedo/)

Respectfully submitted:

Roger Powell
Secretary