

TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD
TAX RATE SETTING
MINUTES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020
3:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM

I. CALL TO ORDER.

At 3:00 p.m., Chairman Phil Winslow called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Phil Winslow, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson, and Select Board Member Mae Bradshaw.

Also, Present: Becky Bergeron, Finance Director/Town Administrator; Water District Commissioners, Ralph Hickson, Rye Beach Village District Commissioners, Frank Drake and Becky Franz.

II. 2020 TAX RATE SETTING

A. Chair Winslow opened the meeting with an outline of last year's tax breakdown:

TOWN RATE	2.98
LOCAL SCHOOL RATE	3.98
STATE SCHOOL RATE	2.18
COUNTY	1.08
TOTAL ESTIMATED RATES W/O VILLAGE DISTRICTS	10.22

Chair Winslow expressed his desire to keep the tax rate as flat as possible for 2020 due to the economic uncertainty created by the pandemic. To do this, the Board would have to vote to use fund balance to reduce the rate. DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) requires that between 5% - 17% of a municipalities general operating expenditure, be retained as fund balance. Currently Rye has an unassigned fund balance of \$3,299,733 which is 12% of the general operating expenditures.

Member Bradshaw expressed concern about resident's ability to pay taxes, but she also expressed concern over depleting our fund balance with so much uncertainty surrounding the state of the economy.

Vice-Chair Epperson agreed that the tax rate should be kept as stable as possible, but he does not want to keep it artificially low.

Chair Winslow asked Town Administrator Bergeron how much fund balance would be needed to keep the rate flat. Her response was \$963,424.

Chair Winslow made a motion to set the tax rate at \$10.22. An amendment was suggested by Town Administrator Bergeron to use \$963,424 from unassigned fund balance in offset of the tax rate. Chair Winslow amended his motion and Member Bradshaw seconded. Roll Call Vote: Phil Winslow – Yes; Bill Epperson – Yes, Mae Bradshaw – Yes.

The unofficial base Town tax rate pending final approval from the DRA was set at \$10.22 which is broken down as follows:

TOWN RATE	3.10
LOCAL SCHOOL RATE	3.88
STATE SCHOOL RATE	2.27
COUNTY	.97
TOTAL ESTIMATED RATES W/O VILLAGE DISTRICTS	10.22

B. SETTING OF THE PRECINCTS 2019 TAX RATE

Chair Winslow presented the following information for the three precincts: Jenness Beach District, Rye Beach Village Precinct, and the Rye Water District.

	2020 Rate	2019 Rate	2018 Rate
Jenness Beach	.16	.19	.17
Rye Beach	.34	.27	.49
Rye Water District	.54	.57	

At 3:32 p.m. there being no further business before the Board, Vice-Chair Epperson made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Member Bradshaw. Roll Call Vote: Phil Winslow – Yes; Bill Epperson – Yes; Mae Bradshaw – Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Bergeron