

Minutes
CONWAY SELECT BOARD
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
Thursday, October 19, 2017 5:30 p.m.

Select Board present: Bob Armstrong; Robert Baker

Others present: Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator; Lee Whitcomb, Assessor; Malcolm Corse, Assessor; Russ French, Assessor

Robert Baker called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Old Business

7:05 JOINT MEETING with the BOARD OF ASSESSORS: Tax Classification Hearing.

Robert Baker turned the meeting over to Lee Whitcomb.

Lee said that the tax values had been approved by DOR. At the request of the treasurer/Collector, they are moving to billing by parcel, rather than by landowner.

Overall property values went down slightly, including 20 acres that were sold to the Northampton water district. The Conway School of Landscape Design, though, was sold to a private owner, and is valued at about \$455,000, generating about \$9,000 in tax revenue. That said, the tornado brought a number of property values down to zero, as the houses are uninhabitable.

Abatements are high; more than \$40,000 instead of the usual mid- to upper-20s.

The value of the power plant is stable till the next revaluation; the company has re-organized into Great River Hydro, with a valuation of about \$10.5M, generating about \$170-185,000 per year. We expect some Comcast growth for FY19, with the cable build-out; they report to the STATE, and the State creates the valuation for assessment.

Lee went over the necessary forms, with the Select Board initialing as appropriate. The tax recap (LA-4) is done, and we have free cash certified, and over \$196,000, down from last year's \$205,000. The B-2, stabilization, is done, as is the overlay, debt exclusions, and the levy limit.

Lee presented the classification/tax allocation form, and **on a motion from Robert Baker to maintain a single tax rate, with a residential factor of 1, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.** Lee noted that this will produce a tax rate of \$18.50, up \$0.75 from last year.

On a motion at 5:56 p.m. from Robert Baker to adjourn, seconded by Bob Armstrong, the vote was unanimous in favor.