Joint Meeting - Stormwater Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, March 5, 2019  7:00PM  Meeting Minutes

Location: Town Hall Conference Rm. B & C, 101 Main St, Ashland, MA 01721

- The Selectmen held an executive session that ran overtime delaying the start of the joint meeting until 7:45 (est.)
- Rob StG suggested a discussion flow to the Board chair, Rob Scherer. It was agreed to proceed accordingly.
- Rob StG introduced, and the Board welcomed, new candidate members – Leah Lester, Brian McGrattan. They were appointed by the Board at the end of the meeting.
- Rob StG introduced the documents in the Board packet which are listed below.
- Rob StG mentioned the finding by Town Counsel regarding authority to set SW fees which currently resides in the DPW. The Board has taken this under advisement.
- Rob StG then walked the members through the updated revenue model based on updated Impervious Area data and property codes.

The remainder of the meeting was conducted by the Board Chair, Rob Scherer. BoS member Steve Mitchell described his alternative fee structure. There was a discussion about the senior abatement. Some members of the Board were unaware of the different senior abatements – Trash being age-based but taxes being income based. The consensus of the Board was that the SMU fee abatement should not be a senior age abatement but be based on low income instead.

The flat fee for homeowners and individual (non-commercial) property owners was briefly discussed. It was followed by a discussion of the commercial rate. These fee rates were both compared to the rates charged by other towns using the materials provided in the packets.

The Board concluded that they desired more time to study the fee structure but agreed to bring it to a vote in two weeks so as not to hold up the billing preparation process.

- The Board then appointed Leah Lester and Brian McGrattan to SWAC with their term of office running to August 31, 2020
- Rob StG introduced the new mission statement/charter previously approved by SWAC saying that SWAC had fulfilled its prior mission. After a short discussion the Board approved the new charter.
- After motions duly made and seconded it was voted to adjourn. 9:05[est.]

Materials:
- Discussion agenda
- Stormwater authority opinion
- Comparative stormwater fees data
- Impervious Area Definition and Policy
- Property codes list by Fee Tier
- Prior funding scenarios
- Updated funding scenarios
- Ongoing SWAC Charter/Mission Statement