

TOWN OF HOLLISTON
SELECT BOARD

December 8, 2020

Town Hall

6:30 P.M.

703 Washington Street

Present: John Cronin, Chair; Tina Hein, Vice Chair; Ben Sparrell, Clerk.

Also Present: Travis Ahern, Town Administrator; Kathryn Peirce, Principle Assessor (remotely); Peter Barberi, Leslie Kennelly, Board of Assessors (remotely).

At 6:30 PM J. Cronin called the meeting to order.

CONTINUATION OF TAX CLASSIFICATION:

Leslie Kennelly, Board of Assessors Chair expressed her thanks to Kathryn Peirce for all her efforts over these past several weeks. At which point K. Peirce presented the FY21 data regarding town wide values. She explained that the tax rate is determined by dividing the Levy by the total Town Value:

FY21 Levy (total budget)	\$51,063,020	
Total valuation (residential/commercial/industrial)	\$2,860,673,392	= \$17.85

This tax rate of \$17.85 is down a dollar from last years FY20 tax rate.

K. Peirce went on to discuss the differences between a Split Tax Rate vs. a Single Tax Rate. Holliston currently has very little Commercial/Industrial properties. Holliston is 93% owner occupied, residential properties.

She went on to explain that FY21 values/assessments increased town wide. The average assessment is \$499,556. Average tax bill \$8,917.07. The assessments are determined by looking at a full year of sales, in this case 2019 sales. She cautioned that even though the tax rate went down due to the fact that assessments went up residents will most likely not see a decrease in their tax bills.

K. Peirce also reviewed several exemptions available to Towns in the Commonwealth including Open Space Exemption, Small Commercial and Residential Exemptions. She explained that neither of these are deemed as beneficial to the Town and the Board of Assessors do not recommend them. After some discussion the Select Board voted on the following motions:

T. Hein made a motion to approve the FY21 Tax Rate of \$17.85. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to not adopt the Open Space Exemption. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to not adopt a Split Tax Rate. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to not adopt the Residential Exemption. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

T. Hein made a motion to not adopt the Small Commercial Exemption. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

B. Sparrell made a motion to approve the Excess Levy Capacity in the amount of \$555,979. T. Hein second. Vote 3-0.

At 7:16 PM T. Hein made a motion to close the Classification Hearing. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

At 7:17 PM T. Hein made a motion to adjourn. B. Sparrell second. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted;

Margaret Driscoll

Approved_____