

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**MARIANNE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**August 31, 2020**  
**7:00 PM- 8:00 PM**

Attendance: Roscoe Tash Sr-1st Selectman, Kirby Whitney - 2nd Selectman, Arnold Knights Jr - 3rd Selectman, Sandra Tash -Tax Collector/Treasurer, Carrie Kester- Town Clerk

Guests: Ruth Birtz, Luke Tash, Chris DeBeck, Mickey Thompson

Meeting called to order.

First order of business: Ruth Birtz presented the milrate. She added \$750,000 of value to offset milrate. She said that for the first time ever, Sandy as the treasurer sent her a list of revenue, which she thought totaled about \$400,000-\$450,000. She asked Sandy to confirm that figure. Ruth said that it is a wonder that the town has not run into trouble before since she never really knew what kind of revenue that came into Chester. Sandy commented that we are running about \$20,000-\$22,000 less than we were this time last year but hopefully it will all catch up. That revenue usually runs about \$599,000 but this year we are running behind. Ruth figured about \$400,000 and she increased the value by 12 to 13 million, which makes the municipal's value as 130 million. She has also added 1.7 million in business equipment of which 50% is figured.

**It was decided that the milrate would be set at 13.5.** Ruth reminded the Board of Selectmen that in 3 years the school budget will be affected by all of this but for a couple of years if should remain stable. She also informed the Selectmen that the Planning Board approved a \_\_\_\_\_dollar solar farm. She told us that Governor Mills has made the land exempt for solar farms so it will only add about \$2 million. She asked them if they thought it was worth spending \$20,000 to hire a lawyer to put it into TIF. She said considering all of this, "Sandy has put the milrate at a good place".

Luke Tash asked how much the average household's taxes would go up and she reply was, "\$150".

Ruth Birtz then informed the Selectmen that Tony Pinette has had a family emergency and will not be continuing the State Audit. Mike Rogers will be here to finish up the audit on Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30PM. The week after we need to have an appointment with TRIO so the tax bills can be printed.

Mickey Thompson had not arrived yet so we moved on to the next order of business, which was the Salt Shed lease with Unorganized Territory for Mattamiscontis Township's sand and salt. The current lease expires October 31, 2020. The Selectmen think a new lease with a new figure needs to be drawn up and would like Shaw Weeks to be present at next month's Selectmen's Meeting.

Next Mickey Thompson, who purchased Debbie Smith's property with the ancient burial ground in the back, which Phillip Farrington has been feuding over for two years, wanted to have his say. Phillip Farrington had told us that he is not pursuing having the cemetery plot deeded in Town of Chester's name because of underlying health problems. Mickey asked if it was known if there were really any bodies buried there and if it was a "legal cemetery". He said that the big stone is facing towards his property instead of John Whitney's property. And he wants to know if he is under legal obligation if in the future he wants to use the land! He also wants to reserve the right to bring this subject up again, if needed, at a later time. At any rate, he was informed that as long as he maintains the Ancient Burial Ground that he does not need to feud with Phil Farrington. The State of Maine law states, "A person who owns a parcel of land that contains an ancient burying ground and chooses to deny access to the municipality or its caretaker designated pursuant to section 1101 shall assume the duties as described in section 1101 and Title 30-A, section 2901. Maintenance of an ancient burying ground by the owner exempt the municipality from performing the duties as described in section 1101" and I gave him a copy of this. MRS Title 13 section 1101-B.

They each got a copy of the Regional School Unit Tax and are aware that even though the payments were supposed to start in July, we did not receive it until August 12,2020.

All three Selectmen approved having Diamond Pressure Washing to power wash the front of the municipal building, having giving us a quote of \$250.

We were ready to adjourn when Butch spoke up that we need to make a note of the ditch by DJ's was 2/3 full of water with this last big rain we had on Sonny's side. Rocky said that there was money appropriated for ditching and that would have to go on the list.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be on September 28th.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Kester  
Town Clerk