

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Tax Classification Hearing

Minutes of December 5, 2022

Present: Don Haapakoski-Chairman, Brad Taylor-Vice Chairman, Lucy Tessnau-Clerk

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Priscilla Johnson, Amanda Carroll, Peter Joyce, Barbara & Vin Piucci, Lisa Taylor

Hearing opened at 6:02 PM by Chairman, Don Haapakoski

Tax Classification Hearing: Priscilla Johns, Principal Assessor along with two members of the Board of Assessors, Amanda Carroll and Peter Joyce came before the Board of Selectmen with their recommendation for Fiscal Year 2023 as a single tax rate of \$11.57 per thousand. Peter stated that 92% of Oakham is residential and therefore no need for a separate tax rate.

Lucy made motion to accept the tax classification as presented by the Board of Assessors as a single rate of \$11.57 per thousand, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.

Don addressed a solar pilot that was an agreement for payment in lieu of taxes for personal property between Oakham Solar, LLC and The Town of Oakham, Ma. The first few payments were made according to the agreement. Then the Solar Company received a personal property tax bill which they paid but had also made their regular payment in accordance to the agreement. Now there is an over payment which the Town needs to reimburse. It went from twice a year automatic payment to personal property tax. Priscilla said the state required for bills to be sent that way as that is how they assess the solar equipment. Don said tremendous changes were made by the legislature in the past year. One of the changes is that any prior agreement will remain the same. Priscilla said moving forward the agreements with a solar company and the Town will be assessed differently and will not be as complicated. Peter Joyce said maybe there can be an abatement, Priscilla does not think there is enough funds in that account to make an abatement. It should be a correction and not an abatement as it was paid. Peter said they will talk to Diana Peterson who has more knowledge on solar pilots. Amanda suggested updating the agreement. Amanda will follow up the developer's counsel.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:29 PM: Lucy made motion to adjourn, Brad 2nd, Don all in favor.