

New Ashford Tax Classification Hearing
New Ashford Town Hall
September 21, 2018

Select Board Present: Jason Jayko (chair), Ken McInerney, Mark Phelps
Others Present: Assessor Gus Martin, Eileen Gabriel, Sherry Youngkin, Frank Youngkin, Alan Steinhoff, Tammy Steinhoff, Karen Mongue, Karen Benko, Lori Jayko, Chuck Morrone

Hearing opened at 6:00

1. Tax Classification: Gus Martin, Assessor, reported that there is an increase of taxable value in the town of \$359,908, which will bring in an additional \$38,054 of tax revenue. However, with the increase in expenses, particularly the school budget, the tax rate will be \$14.15 for a single rate. The DOR determines the values for utilities and gives Gus a formal list to use. Providers are assessed individually based on their value on the pole. Statewide some agricultural values went up and others went down, depending on the classification such as meadow or forestland. There is a recreational plot on Greylock Road. Singular commercial went up \$543,900 in value, multi-use commercial went down \$860,940, forest went down \$1,724, and agriculture went up \$59,059. Overall assessed commercial values went down \$259,705. Gus will look at the commercial values and let the board know why they went down. Residential value is up \$552,940, open space no change, commercial value is down \$259,705, industrial no change, personal property down \$136,130. Overall total value is up \$157,105. Sherry asked for an explanation on the school assessment. Ken explained that is based on the vote taken at town meeting in May. The school budget went from \$507,159 to \$620,972. The town's Municipal Light Plant will be exempt because it will be town owned. Chuck told the Board that having a single rate has put an extra burden on the residents. The split rate would be \$12.93 residential and \$21.22 commercial. The Board worries that a commercial tax that high will discourage new businesses in town.

Hearing adjourned on a motion by Mark, seconded by Ken at 6:29