



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Julie Smith-Galvin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Julie Smith-Galvin led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** Julie Smith-Galvin, Chair; Mehreen N. Butt, Vice-Chair; Jonathan P. Chines; Anne P. Danehy; Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.; and Ann McGonigle Santos.

**Administration Present:** Sherri A. Dalton, Town Council Clerk and Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator.

**Town Counsel Present:** Thomas A. Mullen.

**Public Engagement:** There was no public engagement.

**Public Hearing:** At 7:05 p.m. Ann Santos motioned to open the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Classification. Town Assessor Santaniello presented the tax classification for determining the percentage of local tax levy to be borne by each class of taxable property within the Town for Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Classification. Ann Santos motioned for a minimum residential factor of .903775 which will maintain a shift factor of 1.75. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned not to offer an Open Space Discount. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned not to offer a Residential Exemption. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned not to grant a Small Commercial Exemption. Jonathan P. Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. questioned the tax levy number and feels going the full 2.5% tax rate is not appropriate. Going forward he requested that discussions of the 2.5% tax rate start at the beginning of the budget process. No one from the public spoke regarding tax classification. Ann Santos motioned to close the Public Hearing at 7:48 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ann Santos motioned to approve the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Tri-Board meeting minutes as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Council meeting minutes as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Redistricting:** Town Clerk Sheeran gave an overview of the division of the Town into precincts that are necessitated by the results of the 2020 Census. Ann Santos motioned pursuant to G.L. c. 54, s. 6 that the Town Council approve the division of the Town into precincts as set forth in the map and precinct descriptions proposed by the Town Clerk, to be effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.



**Surplus Equipment:** Ann Santos motioned to approve the request from DPW Director Conway to auction surplus equipment as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Green Communities Update:** Gas & Light Commission Kallay gave an update of the Energy Reduction Commitment Plan. The next item that needs to be achieved in order to make an application for designation as a Green Community by the end of this year is to provide a baseline of the town's energy usage and coming up with a plan to reduce that by 20% in 5 years. The proposal will come before the Town Council and School Committee for approval before the application is submitted.

**Intermunicipal Agreement:** Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve the proposed Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Reading and the Town of Wakefield for the Director of the Assessing Department for a term commencing on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Licenses:** Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 All Alcohol Liquor license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Inn Holder Liquor license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Club Liquor license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Beer & Wine Liquor license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Package Store Liquor license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Common Victualler license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Entertainment license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Lodging House license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Fortune Teller license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Automated Device license applications as proposed. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Class I license applications. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the 2022 Class II license applications. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0. Ann Santos motioned to approve the request from Aaronap Cellars, LLC for Special License to Sell Wine at Farmers' Market on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Donation:** Ann Santos motioned to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the library in the amount of \$329.00 from various donors with thanks. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Town Council Discussions:** Town Clerk Sheeran discussed a possible Special Town Election to fill unexpired term on the Town Council through April 2022. It is Town Clerk Sheeran's recommendation not to hold a special election to fill the open seat. State law dictates the amount of time that candidates must receive nomination signatures. The Town Clerks office must receive a petition of at least 200 registered voters by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 we have no discretion and must hold a special election. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. stated his personal opinion and is in favor of a special election. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. motioned to hold a Special Election to fill the unexpired term on the Town Council through April 2022. Ann Santos seconded. Motion did not pass 1-5-0 with Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. voting in favor. Julie Smith-Galvin, Mehreen N. Butt, Jonathan P. Chines, Anne P. Danehy and Ann Santos voting against the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the platform for Town Council meetings.

Town Counsel Mullen noted there are no violations with the Open Meeting Law prohibiting the Town Council holding a Zoom Webinar platform for their meetings.

**Announcements:** Julie Smith-Galvin: Veterans Day ceremony is November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Galvin; liaisons update will be at the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Council meeting. Jonathan P. Chines: Youth Council is holding a community cleanup on Veterans Day; this Wednesday there is a Community Info Session regarding the High School project; Vision 2030 comments are until November 15<sup>th</sup>. Ann Santos: Lieutenant Rob Ford's funeral was very moving. Anne P. Danehy: Dodgeball is Saturday; Wakefield Community Group is posting great pictures. Town Counsel Mullen: tomorrow is the 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Fire. Mehreen N. Butt: thank you to Town Administrator Maio and WCAT for accommodations at Town Meeting; the application portal is a great tool and ease for businesses; dodgeball is 10:00 a.m. on Saturday; Winters Farmers Market is November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> and thank you to all involved. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.: Saturday at 2:00 p.m. is the dedication of the Peter J. May dog park; thank you to all the Veterans. Town Administrator Maio: congratulations to Ed for completing the NY marathon and congratulations to Julie for completing a 1/2 marathon; with the increase in fuel prices, assistance is available for people that need help and information will be available on the website.

**Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda:** There were no unanticipated matters.

**Adjournment:** Ann Santos motioned to adjourn at 9:34 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton  
Town Council Clerk