

## ***Taxes and Zoning***

Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting

December 4, 2018

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The Board of Selectman opened their meeting on December 4th with a touching tribute to the late George H. W. Bush. Madame Chair Livingston gave a very moving speech, looking back to when she was in the military herself.

A reminder that the due date for dog tags in March 21, 2019.

Two new people have been appointed. Jonathan Craz has been added to the Planning board for April 2019. On the Ayer Recycling Committee, Rebecca Jones has been added after volunteering for the position. Her term will expire on June 30, 2020.

The bulk of the meeting was to discuss the town's taxes in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). The Board of Assessors discusses a few property tax classifications. The Small Commercial Exemption did not pass however, it was added to the budget calendar for August 2020. The estimated tax rates are .728773 for a residential factor and a rate of \$13.63.

A representative from Ayer Solar 2, addressed the board about a possible multifamily housing proposal from the company. The company wants to use land near the Nashoba Medical Center. So far, this project is purely conceptual. The Board made no decisions on this yet and mentioned that they would be willing to talk more with the company in the future about their plans.

The Town Manager, Robert Pontbriand, discussed a couple of points of note during the Town Manager's Report. First, he talked about the Recreational Marijuana Zoning Bylaw. He said that as this is a very heated issue it would eventually have to go to a Town Meeting Vote, possibly at a special election in april or at the annual town meeting in may. He also wants to use other towns bylaws as a reference, towns including Littleton, Athol, Natick, Lowell, etc. Secondly, Pontibrand spoke about the town;s efforts to revitalize Park Street. Their ideas include things such as adding street parking. Pontibrand claims that the plans for revamping Park Street have been apart of the town's master plan for 22 years.