

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**November 5, 2008**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Jane B. Allen, Chairman, Tom Costley, David Rempell, Richard Steege

**Others Present:** Bill Barkin, Chuck St. John, Peter Fohlin, Meghan Foley

**1. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**A. 5:30 PM – FY09 Tax Classification Hearing** – Ms. Allen opened the public hearing at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Fohlin explained the two handouts to the Board. FY08 v FY09 Tax Assessments is the more interesting. It shows FY09 tax rates of \$11.40 town, \$.42 fire district, and \$11.82 total. This compares to \$11.78, \$.46, and \$12.24 last year for a reduction of \$.42 in the FY09 total tax rate. This reduction is of course attributable to an increase in total taxable value from \$1.038 billion to \$1.116 billion.

The selectmen do not "set the tax rate" as the media commonly reports. The assessors do that after the selectmen hold a classification hearing to determine whether the town will assign different tax burdens to residential, open space, and commercial and industrial property. FY09 Split Tax Rates shows the effect that five examples of splits between the minimum of none to the maximum shift of 50% would cause. Williamstown has not invoked a split tax rate in recent times (ever??). The vote to have one tax rate or multiple tax rates is the purpose of Wednesday's important meeting, after which we will be able to mail tax bills. Mr. Costley moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rempell moved to set a single tax rate for residential and commercial property. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**2. ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, November 10, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Costley  
Secretary pro tempore