

MINUTES
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Present: Elise Lebovit, Marsha Shuftrin and Angela A. Cywinski (Assessor/Appraiser)
Guests: Berta Welch, Adriana Ignacio, Michael W. Stutz, Ted Cammann, Juli Vanderhoop

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Open Forum Meeting

An open discussion for taxpayers who had questions regarding real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes; along with explaining the revised senior exemptions.

Ms. Welch opined about her personal property bill increasing. It was explained that the State law has no provision to direct assessors as to how to arrive at a value for personal property. Every six years every city/town assessor's office must mail out a form of list to all homeowners to fill out and declare the value their contents for an analysis. If the home is their residence then the homeowner can apply for an abatement. Ms. Welch, did not submit the form of list nor applied for an abatement which increased her personal property bill. The board members instructed Angela to send her the form so she could apply for fiscal year 2019.

Ms. Ignacio wondered why her taxes were more that her sister, Ms. Cuch since they had similar sized homes. Angela left the discussion to print out their property record cards. The cards were handed to Ms. Ignacio and the value between the two homes was \$30,000 or \$164.40 tax dollars.

There was general discussion regarding the values and taxes. Mr. Stutz asked Selectperson Vanderhoop how is the relationship between the Selectmen and Assessors? She stated, "We're going in a positive direction."

Ms. Vanderhoop stated the open forum was not well attended but was happy that the Assessors did have it. The meeting was posted on the town's website, town's Facebook page and sent to a private Aquinnah taxpayers' group.

The Board received Town Counsel's opinion regarding Bills 128, 182 and 116, thus granting abatement. (See attached email)

The Board granted these applications:

Real Estate Bills - 128,182,116,716 and 340.

Board voted unanimously in favor of a sundry abatement for a clerical error on Bill #1002.

Personal Property Bills – AQ00301 and AQ00079.

Board voted unanimously in favor of a sundry abatement on Bill #AQ00708, the taxpayer submitted the documentation and was inadvertently placed back on the rolls, clerical error.

The Board denied Personal Property bill #AQ00761.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Angela A. Cywinski