

MINUTES
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Present: Elise Lebovit, Adam A. Wilson, Marsha Shufrin and Angela A. Cywinski (Assessor/Appraiser)
Guest: Berta Giles Welch

Meeting started at 7:09 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

Abatement Received:

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Action</u>
AQ 00415	PP	Deemed Denied by Board*
*The Board voted to reconsider and grant the abatement (3-0-0)		
715	RE	Deemed Denied by Board (3-0-0)
584	RE	Deemed Denied by Board (3-0-0)
129	RE	Deemed Denied by Board (3-0-0)
646	RE	Late Filed notice sent by Board

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Welch met with the board to ask why her personal property bill increased so much, as compared to her family members. She acknowledged that she failed to submit the form of list and apply for an abatement. She stated that at a previous BOS meeting the selectmen had stated that no year-round resident needs to fill out the paperwork and is exempt. She assumed that their information was correct.

It was explained that every six years, assessors must send out the form all to homeowners to calculate percentage of the building assessment as a value for personal property. The information required to conduct to town analysis yielded few responses. In October of 2017, there were only two active board members. A list of potential year-round residents was shown to the board for consideration to not be assessed. Hence, the response from year-round residents to submit their documentation was few.

At that point in time in October of 2017, the underlying consensus was to be more understanding of the year-round resident population of the town. The board voted on the "list" as presented, not to have those accounts be active for billing purposes. Board member LeBovit is a direct abutter to Ms. Welch so, she recused herself on that matter. Ms. Welch was on the list, for personal property because she has a rental apartment. By not responding to the request of information, the total house assessment was used to calculate the value of the personal property bill. Thus, the reason for the steep increase.

It was explained to her that the assessors do not know what was provided for the tenant. This is the reason why the form of list needs to be submitted, so it can be reviewed by the board.

Ms. Welch asked the board never to vote on a "list" of potential residents again because she thought it was discriminating. She also requested same consideration that the others received on the "list" in October 2017.

Board member Mr. Wilson disagreed with the past recommended course of action, and motioned to send out personal property bills to all on the "list" by June 20, 2018. Motion seconded by Ms. Shufrin. After a very brief discussion the **Board voted in favor unanimously.**

Preparing for Town Meeting:

FinCom did not approved the warrant article for the software upgrade with an archive computer
Board member Wilson will address this warrant article at ATM.

FinCom did not approve the warrant article pertaining to assessors being appointed instead of elected.
The board didn't agree with FinCom since it isn't a monetary article. Board member Shufrin will
address this warrant article as an individual, not as a board member

Board member Elise will speak to the senior exemptions.

The board directed Angela to speak to the revaluation article.

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The board was updated of the financial impact of the ATM with a \$325,000 override. It was stated that this office did not receive nor was involved in the budget process. The ATM warrant was downloaded from the town's website. In the past, it was distributed via email to all departments ahead of the public posting. The Board was updated on the FY2019 Tax Recap Levy worksheet. This worksheet serves as an aid and a prelude for the final version in November.

The Board is responsible for the Levy Limit and Tax Recap Sheet, as part of their duties. The final figures were estimated and showing we are \$94,000 over the tax levy. It was explained that the Town Accountant has been sent this working spreadsheet to verify the figures.

Board member Wilson disagreed with the assumption of a 9% budget increase, across the board. The percentage can and will change annually, it's a variable for the foreseeable future. The value amounts in this spreadsheet can change however, some amounts are predictable.

The board asked Angela to create a handout for the ATM to explain the assessors warrant articles and ballot questions. She stated, "I am working on it and will sent it via email to all three members."

Other Administrative Business:

Any daily duties not mentioned above that are needed to maintain the State standards.

Board signed the Monthly Abatement sheets for Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle for the month of April 2018 (2017 for Motor Vehicle).

Bill #561 was previously deemed denied on April 24, 2018. The property was inspected on May 1, 2018. The Board upheld its' decision of denial. A letter will be sent to the taxpayer explaining the changes made with documentation.

Town Counsel upheld the Board of Assessors decision regarding to taxing the Tribe for leasing from the Town; and to grant an abatement to a taxpayer who is in tax title.

The Board was notified that the Town Administrator did not send out Personnel Evaluations to be completed by the employees. In previous years, they were emailed to the employees by January 1st and to be submitted to the Town Administrator by March 1st. Ms. Cywinski stated she waited until now and nothing was received. She disclosed that she will copy the prior year's evaluation form and complete; to be review by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm
Respectfully submitted by,