

MINUTES
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
May 23, 2018

Present: Elise LeBovit, Marsha Shufrin, Adam A. Wilson and Angela A. Cywinski (Assessor/Appraiser)

Meeting started at 4:37 pm

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motor Vehicle Abatement 2018 Bill #145 granted by Board
- Monthly Abatement Sheet for the month of May 2018 signed by Board: Real Property
- Abutters List signed by Board: MBLU 10-29.3; MBLU 6-102.4; MBLU 9-103.1; MBLU 5-172.2; MBLU 9-15; MBLU 12.35.3; MBLU 4-104; MBLU 3-34

The Board found out about the June 5, 2018 STM in the newspaper, they were not given the curiosity of notification. Board member Wilson apologized to the board members for not attending the ATM. He did mention that he had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Rugg, regarding the only spending warrant article not supported by FinCom. Board member Wilson was apologetic that he didn't relay the conversation with Mr. Rugg to the other members.

The Board had a dialog regarding the failure of the warrant article for software upgrade and archival computer, listed below are the points from the discussion:

- ✓ Reaffirm the pricing of the software
- ✓ Pricing and specs for a new CPU, have alternatives
- ✓ Storage remedy for the out-to-date files
- ✓ Funding source for the upgrade
- ✓ A clear and concise presentation so, all can understand the purpose
- ✓ Official date when the old software will be turned off
- ✓ Possibility of having the Town Clerk involved with the archival
- ✓ State requirements

The Board was informed of Mr. Newman's response to an email pertaining to adding a warrant article for the up-coming STM, for the purpose of upgrading the appraisal software.

Other Administrative Business:

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

Board member Shufrin stated that Mr. Newman spoke with her at the town meeting concerning a taxpayer who received a denial of their abatement.

The taxpayer was sent an email regarding the hearing date, received no response. The taxpayer called the office after receiving the denial letter. The conversation was an aggressive one-sided outburst, leaving no room for productive communication. It stated that they either don't use or look at their email. This email address has been used in prior communications without issue. A letter with supporting documentation was sent explaining the reason for the denial by the board.

We mentioned that the prior history between the BOS and BOA influenced the reason why appointed versus elected assessor passed. As part of the discussion, an effort needs made to improve

communication with the taxpayers. Also, it was mentioned that Mr. Newman should have communicated that taxpayer issue directly with this board. Board member LeBovit pointed out that this is an example of the BOS not backing nor supporting this board. She stated the purpose of the joint board members is to make headway.

Board member Lebovit drove Ms. Cywinski to do 95 building inspections last summer. She was pleasantly surprised of the good relationships that Ms. Cywinski has with the property owners. It only takes one taxpayer to have a negative experience. Hence, the taxpayer complains to the BOS. The BOS publicly states that many taxpayers are complaining which the board doesn't know who are the aggrieved. It was discussed that the BOS needs to be sent an email to forward any complaints regarding this department. Thus, this board will handle their own internal matters.

Board member Shufrin questioned why a financial chart was created and felt it wasn't a proper use of time. Board member Lebovit stated that it is part of our duties and we should be aware of everything financial. It was stated that the Tax Rate Recap completion is overseen by the Assessors and determine the amount to be raised through the property tax levy.

Tax title memo, prior to hiring Ms. McFarland; parcels owned by the Town must be inventoried and deeds given to the Town Accountant. During the process, while identifying town owned parcels, it was discovered that some parcels were in the town's name with no legally recorded documentation. The duties of the Assessors are to identify the legal owner of the parcel for taxation. The due diligence was done to identify the owners. After a period of seven years, Ms. McFarland stated she feels that assessors overstepped their duties for doing a "title search"; this was first communication in that time period.

At the May 2, 2018 meeting, a taxpayer was unhappy with the process of being assessed personal property as resident. The next day after the meeting, the taxpayer's personal property account in the computer was on override. The software had a glitch with accounts on override.

The board was asked to vote a sundry abatement for a clerical (computer) error. The Board unanimously voted to grant. A letter clarifying the issue will be sent to the taxpayer, board member Wilson volunteered to send the letter. The board was asked to re-consider the May 2, 2018 vote, not send personal property bills to the people on the "list". They voted unanimously to rescind.

The Board voted unanimously for Elise Lebovit to be Chair and the assessors' appointee on the Aquinnah Town Advisory Board.

Board member Wilson left meeting at 6:00 PM.

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation 3ABC granted by Board (2-0-1)

Aquinnah Cultural Center 3ABC granted by Board (2-0-1)

Vineyard Conservation Society, Ince granted by Board (2-0-1)

Island Housing Trust 3ABC application to take no action. They need to submit the 1B3 for the new acquisition in town.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Angela A. Cywinski