

Board of Assessors Minutes
Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
Town Hall, Assessors Conference Room, 60 Center Square
East Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01028

Present: Martin J. Grudgen, Chairman; J. William Johnston, Clerk of the Board; Diane L. Bishop, Director of Assessing

Mr. Grudgen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. It was noted this meeting was being recorded by ELCAT, 180 Maple Street, East Longmeadow and this office for the purposes of the minutes in accordance with MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 20.

Reorganization of the Board of Assessors: Mr. Johnston moved Martin Grudgen be named as Chairman of the Board of Assessors for the upcoming year. Mr. Grudgen seconded out of necessity. Motion passed 2-0. Mr. Grudgen moved Bill Johnston be named as Clerk of the Board. Mr. Johnston seconded out of necessity. Motion passed 2-0.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Johnston reviewed the open and executive session minutes from the meeting of April 3, 2018 and found them to be in order as to form and content and moved they be accepted. Mr. Grudgen seconded out of necessity. Motion passed 2-0.

Administrative:

- **Uncollectible Motor Vehicle and Boat Excise -2008-** The assessors signed the Collector's Uncollectible Abatement request in order to settle the levy. These reports were signed at the last meeting and are being resigned. It was noted all MV Excise will continue to be marked at the Registry of Motor Vehicle. The Deputy Collector will still make every attempt to collect these outstanding amounts
- **Reports:** The board reviewed and signed where necessary the following monthly reports:
 - Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Report –April (2016, 2017, 2018)
 - Boat Abatement Report-April (2018)
 - Uncollectible Motor Vehicle Abatement Report –April (2008)
 - Uncollectible Boat Abatement Report –April (2008)
 - FY2018 Real Estate Exemption Report-April
 - FY2018 Real Estate Abatement Report-April
 - Building Permit Report-March-Mr. Grudgen noted there was one new condo permit at the Fields with Ms. Bishop stating construction is a little slow so far this year. Mr. Grudgen commented there are several insulations, remodels, siding, solar and windows.
- **Directors Update:**
 - **Cherry Sheets:** House Ways and Means Committee local estimates were received which was a little higher in both local aid and assessments than the governor's budget. As mentioned in the past, this is a work in progress.
 - **Educational Funding for Assessors:** The Board members may have watched the budget discussions from the Town Council meeting where Councilor Anderson questioned the Assessors Training budget and inquired if more funding can be aggregated between the assessors if one doesn't utilize their allocation. According the Municipal Finance Director, she stated, if there is an important educational course it should be brought to the Director of Assessing or the Municipal Finance Director's attention to ensure the needed education is provided. Councilor Anderson wanted to ensure the remaining board members were aware of this.
 - **Vision Government Solutions Inc.:** Correspondence has been received to provide informational updates on addressing the recent issue with customer service. Ms. Bishop stated she has not had any issued in the past few months. Ms. Bishop stated since Vision is rolling out their new software and we hope to complete this conversion within the next year; it is important that Vision keeps their clients in the loop of the progress they have made in their Customer Support responses.
 - **Inspections:** Ms. Bishop updated the board that the inspections are ongoing and making good progress with all outstanding BP's that were still under construction from prior years along with all BP's since the start of this new fiscal year. The remaining BP inspections will take place the beginning of June. Mr. Grudgen asked how many inspections we have on our schedule to complete with Ms. Bishop stating approximately 2,000 cyclical and 300 building permits. Mr. Grudgen stated there was an article in the Reminder regarding the inspection program. Ms. Bishop also mentioned there has been a notice on the Town Website too.

- **Veteran's Local Option:** Ms. Bishop updated the board members of a local option reducing the waiting period for veterans which they endorsed at a recent meeting is in a holding pattern. A scheduled meeting of the Finance Team on May 8th should finalize the final two additional local options. Ms. Bishop will keep the board in the loop as to when this will appear on the Council's agenda.

Mr. Grudgen noted the Property Information portion of the website has changed with additional options. The icon to the left is still the area to obtain property maps and field cards. Mr. Grudgen encouraged residents to look at their property cards periodically for accuracy.

FVAC Agricultural Recommended Values for FY19: The board reviewed the Farmland Valuation Advisory Committee per acre range of values. Ms. Bishop stated historically the board has voted the Average Soil Rating but wanted to give the assessors an opportunity to review the information for FY19. Mr. Johnston stated it is basically a dollars per acre number that is based on Chapter 61A statute and the constitutional amendment and are valued differently from other properties. Mr. Grudgen made a motion to accept the Average Soil Rating for agricultural values for FY19. Mr. Johnston seconded out of necessity. Motion passed 2-0.

Chapter 61A Agricultural Lien and Certificate for Forest Lands: Pease Road properties (32-30-9-0 & 32-32-0) This property has been approved and currently classified under Chapter 61A but due to a name change on the deed and a change in use (61A Forest Management Plan) the new liens are necessary. These documents will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Mr. Grudgen made a motion to go into executive session at 4:45p.m. to discuss some Real Estate Abatements and Exemption Applications both containing private information which is not open to the public to return to open session only to record our votes and adjourn. The following roll call was taken. Mr. Johnston, Yes; Mr. Grudgen, Yes.

The board returned to open session at 5:10 p.m.

The follow is the record of votes for all FY2018 applications put before the board:

	Parcel ID #	Location	Abatement / Exemption	Exempti on Clause	Date Voted	Decision
1	26-105-0	44 Rankin Av	Exemption	22	5/1/2018	Granted
2	12A-59-15	20 Indiana St	Exemption	22	5/1/2018	Notice of Late Application
3	25-7-0	221 North Main St	Abatement		5/1/2018	Deem Denied
4	18-1-0	301 Chestnut St	Abatement		5/1/2018	Deem Denied
5	27-24-A/1	45 Crane Ave	Abatement		5/1/2018	Deem Denied
6	40-46A-1	32 Chestnut St	Abatement		5/1/2018	Deem Denied
7	69-12-0	105 Somersville Rd	Supplemental Abatement		5/1/2018	Granted

Ms. Bishop mentioned to the members, on the town website, there is a notice looking for a candidate who has interest in filling the vacant seat on the Board of Assessors. The Town Manager will be the appointing authority and she welcomes any recommendations from the remaining board members and the Director of Assessing. Ms. Bishop mentioned if a board member knows of an interested party to share the requirement of Course 101.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Assessors will be Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Grudgen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnston seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.W. Johnston
Clerk of the Board

Documents Reviewed: Meeting Minutes; MVE & Boat Uncollectible Report (2); MVE Abatement Report; Boat Abatement Report; 2008 Uncollectible Abatement Report (2); FY18 Exemption Report; FY18 RE Abatement Report; Building Permit Report; Director's Update; FY19 FVAC Recommendations; Chapter 61A Lien (2); FY18 Exemption Applications (2); FY18 RE Abatement Applications (5)