

Board of Assessors Minutes
Tuesday, October 16, 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 and Diane L. Bishop, Director of Assessing

Absent: Marilyn Ghedini, Assessor

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.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Johnston reviewed the open minutes from the meeting of September 25, 2018 and found them to be in order as to form and content and moved they be approved. Mr. Grudgen seconded out of necessity. Motion passed 2-0.

Administrative:

- **Warrant:** The board reviewed and signed the following:
 - FY19 Boat Excise Commitment #1
 - Apportioned Betterment Payment in Full Warrant (2)
- **Reports:** The board reviewed the following monthly reports:
 - Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Report-September (2017 & 2018)
 - Notice of Commitment to Accounting (September)
 - Building Permit Report (September) Mr. Grudgen noted there was one new condo with the rest of the building permits being solar, remodels, insulations and decks. Ms. Bishop stated this brings us to ten new dwelling since the beginning of the calendar year.
 - LA-3 Sales Report (September): Ms. Bishop stated this LA-3 reflects the new approved FY 19 values. Mr. Grudgen stated there are a lot of non-arm's length sales.
- **Directors Update:**
 - MAAO Clerk's Meeting: Today, October 16, 2018 the staff attended the MAAO Clerk's meeting. The topic was Best Practices: How to Work Collaboratively with your Collectors Office.
 - Vision National User Group: Ms. Bishop stated she attended this User Group where both the Version 6.5 and new Version 8 was used in the educational classes. A commitment letter has been signed and the Version 8 update will begin on February 11, 2019.
 - FY2019 Valuations (LA-4) and FY2019 Growth (LA-13) were approved. The last step will be a joint meeting between the Board of Assessors and Town Council for the Tax Classification Hearing scheduled next Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Media Room at the Senior Center.
 - Overview of FY19 Single Family Home Values along with the amount of cyclical and building inspections were discussed noting approximately 62% of all single family homes will see an increase of 4 – 5% in value based on sales. Also mentioned, some properties will see a higher increase based on cyclical inspections where improvements were noted and naturally properties where new construction took place over the past year.
 - The FY2019 Tax Rate has not been determined as of yet with the Tax Recap awaiting final sign offs and submission to DOR.

Tax Classification Hearing Packet: Mr. Grudgen stated the Board of Assessors will have a Tax Classification Hearing with the Town Council next Tuesday at the Senior Center at 6:30 pm to discuss our new values and potential tax rate. The Board of Assessors are projecting an increase in value and at this point a decrease in the tax rate. Mr. Grudgen stated the values will be going up between 4-5% for approximately 62% of all homes and concluded with everyone is welcome to join in for this meeting.

The Board of Assessors tabled all Chapter 61A & 61B applications to a future meeting.

Mr. Grudgen made a motion to go into executive session at 4:45 p.m. to discuss several Motor Vehicle Abatement Applications, FY19 Exemption Application and several Appellate Tax Board Appeals, 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 5:25 p.m. The following is the vote of the Board of Assessors:

	Year	Plate	Name	AB/EX	Vote of the Board
1	2018	E28154	SMITH	ABATEMENT	DENIED
2	2018	1FF329	TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT	ABATEMENT	DENIED

	Parcel ID #	Location	Abt/Exemption	Clause	Vote /Date	Decision
1	77-79-A	139 HAMPDEN RD	EXEMPTION	22	10/16/18	DENIED

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Assessors will be Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, in the Conference Room.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.W. Johnston
Clerk of the Board

Documents Reviewed: Meeting Minutes; FY19 Boat Excise Warrant; Apportioned Betterment Payoff (2), Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Report; Notice to Accounting; Building Permit Report, LA-3 Sales Report, Director's Update, Tax Classification Hearing Packet, MVE Abatement Applications (2), FY19 Exemption Application; ATB Appeals (2).