

Board of Assessors
Minutes of Meeting
February 25, 2020

6:00 p.m.: Meeting came to order with Thomas Barry, Chairman; Donald Minney, Vice Chairman; Raymond Goff, Clerk; and John Whelihan, Director of Assessments present.

Documents Presented:

- Invitation to IAAO seminar (Utilities)
- Invitation to Hampshire County Treasurer's Assoc seminar (motor vehicle excise)
- Invitation to BLA workshop (certification standards)
- Taxpayer's guide to property tax exemptions (prepared by DOR)

Signatures:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Schedule of Bills Payable: | \$61.94 |
| • Warrant & Commitment; FY2020 Supplemental Tax | \$71,608.63 |
| | \$879.82 |
| • Monthly List of Abatements; (PP & RE) | \$1,021.46 |
| • Monthly List of Abatements; 2020 MVE | \$192.50 |
| • Monthly List of Abatements; 2020 MVE | \$2,638.04 |
| • Monthly List of Exemptions; FY20 RE | \$812.00 |
| • Monthly List of Abatements; FY20 MVE | \$196.04 |

Old Business:

- Mr. Goff made the motion to approve the regular session and executive session minutes of the February 11, 2020 meetings. Mr. Barry seconded. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Minney abstaining.
- Mr. Whelihan stated that the upgrade to the newest version of Patriot Properties appraisal system is ongoing. The MIS Department is working with Patriot Properties to upgrade the system and make it compatible with the town's new server. Hopefully the process will be completed soon.
- The Board revisited the issue of designating one member to sign the schedule of bills. This would help the office process payments to vendors late in the fiscal year. The Board felt the current policy where the majority signs the bills works best. Mr. Barry feels a system of checks & balances is necessary.

Discussion/Decision:

- The Board approved the office staff attending the following workshops/seminars:

John Whelihan IAAO workshop regarding utility valuation in South Hadley on March 31.
DOR workshop regarding certification standards in Shrewsbury on March 24.
Jennifer Benoit Hampshire County Treasurer's Association meeting regarding the Registry's new motor vehicle excise billing system to be held in Greenfield on March 26
- The Board denied a 2019 excise bill for Wheels LT. The bill was previously abated

- The Board discussed the guidelines that religious/charitable organizations follow to receive and maintain tax exempt classification on the local level. The Board discussed the March 1 due date for charitable/religious organizations to return their Form 3ABC. New applicants are either approved or denied. Existing applicants need to provide the documentation timely to maintain their exempt classification.
- The Board discussed whether to continue the current policy of rotating officers. Mr. Barry requested that the members make attending upcoming meetings a priority. Mr. Goff stated that due to work responsibilities, he may have to miss certain meetings. Mr. Minney stated that unless he has personal commitments, he attends the meetings. He also attended assessor related meetings outside the normal meeting schedule and conducted field work.

Mr. Barry stated that although the FY20 revaluation has been completed, the office will likely remain busy with valuation issues this upcoming year. Mr. Whelihan stated that having a three member board makes it difficult to obtain a quorum for meeting purposes. The Board agreed that members should contact the office or chairperson if they cannot attend a meeting or if they anticipate being late. The policy of rotating officers would continue.

6:50 p.m.: Mr. Barry made the motion to move into executive session to discuss FY20 exemption applications & FY20 abatement application under Purpose 7 of MGL Ch 30A, s. 21(a) to comply with or act under the authority of MGL Ch 59, s. 60 with respect to confidentiality, and not reconvene in regular session. Mr. Goff seconded the motion.

Barry	Yes
Minney	Yes
Goff	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Goff
Clerk

Board of Assessors
Minutes of Executive Session
February 25, 2020

7:15 p.m.: Meeting called to order with Thomas Barry, Chairman; Donald Minney, Vice Chairman; Raymond Goff, Clerk; and John Whelihan, Director of Assessments present.

The Board approved the following FY20 Exemption application. The vote was unanimous at 3-0

NAME	PROPERTY ADDRESS	PARCEL ID	EXEMPTION
Tyburski, Stephen	157 Aldrich Street	248-1.10	Cl. 22

The Board acted upon the following FY20 abatement applications. All votes were unanimous at 3-0

Applicant	Location	Decision
Karl & Susan Barry	363 S. Gulf Rd	Abate value to 509,800 due to unfinished upper floor. Correct # of bathrooms. The Board took no action on issues involving road maintenance/ or lack of a turnaround.
Concetta Lavelle	373 Stebbins St	Abate value to 219,800 per interior inspection. Condition of house is average
Andrew & Lisa Cook	27 Sherwood Dr	Abate value to 281,800 per recent inspection. Condition of house is Fair/Ave. The applicants market analysis and appraisal were reviewed but given little consideration.
CVS	125 N Main St	Deny application due to lack of information
CVS	155 N Main St	Deny application due to lack of information

8:10 p.m.: Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Goff
Clerk

