

Board of Assessors
Minutes of Meeting
June 11, 2019



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 Used:

- Chapter 61 & 61A recommended land values
- Chapter 61A cover letter

Signatures:

- Schedule of Bills Payable: \$394.18
- Warrant & Commitment;
 - Fiscal Year 2020 Real Estate \$13,619,454.46
 - Fiscal Year 2020 Personal Property \$334,328.27
 - Fiscal Year 2020 CPA \$130,008.93
 - 2019 Motor Vehicle Excise \$123,457.14
- Monthly List of Abatements
 - Motor Vehicle Excise, 2019 \$230.42
 - Motor Vehicle Excise, 2019 \$892.39
 - Motor Vehicle Excise, 2019 \$360.84
 - Motor Vehicle Excise, 2019 \$554.17
 - Motor Vehicle Excise, 2019 \$2,295.22
 - Fiscal Year 2020 Real Estate \$2,016.78
- Warrant & Commitment;
 - Tri Lakes Sewer Assessment, payoff (106-45) \$3,298.31
- Schedule of 2014 Uncollectable MVE/Monthly List \$6,726.67
- Schedule of 2019 Uncollectable MVE/Monthly List \$125.00
- 2018 Motor Vehicle Commitment \$44.38
- 2019 Motor Vehicle Commitment \$1,178.75

Incoming Correspondence:

- Invitation to the Hampden/Hampshire Counties Assessors Association (HHCAA) summer picnic on July 11.
- Memo from the Selectmen's Office stating that the Town Hall will be closed on July 4 & 5

Old Business:

- Mr. Goff made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 21 meeting. Mr. Barry seconded. The motion passed 3-0.
- The office staff is inspecting single-family homes in the Mallard Estate area. The first quarter fiscal year 2020 valuations have been finalized. The tax bills will be mailed soon.

- Mr. Barry inquired whether the office has received any notification regarding the newly adopted by-law allowing abatements to developers that build affordable housing. Mr. Barry is uncomfortable with the Treasurer/Collector having sole discretion to abate back taxes. Mr. Whelihan stated that he has received no official correspondence regarding the by-law.

New Business:

- The Board reviewed the recommended agricultural & forest land (61 & 61A) values provided by the Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission (FVAC). The Board noted that the values, especially the forest land, increased from the previous year. Mr. Barry stated that they have traditionally accepted the “average” soil rating for valuation purposes. Mr. Minney did not agree with the level of increase from the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Goff made the motion to adopt the “average” crop range for values as provided by the Division of Local Services. Mr. Barry seconded. The motion passed 2-1 with Mr. Minney voting NO.

- The Board discussed the types of documentation applicants should be providing with their Chapter 61A applications. The Board reviewed and modified the Chapter 61A cover letter that is mailed along with the applications. The letter describes what is considered agricultural income for chapter purposes.

Discussion/Decision:

- The Board agreed to request authority from the Division of Local Services to partially abate a FY19 supplemental tax assessment, under Section 8 of MGL 58, for parcel 279-12.07. Due to a clerical error, the supplemental tax bill was calculated incorrectly. Mr. Whelihan stated that the DLS has sole discretion for issuing abatements to taxpayers that have not filed a timely appeal.
- The Board unanimously voted to exempt the following individuals from motor vehicle excise due to being stationed in MA per military orders.
 - Jaromy Jessop
 - John Diggles
 - Kaleb Andrews
- The next Board meeting will be held on June 25 @ 6:00 p.m.

7:10 p.m.: Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Goff
Clerk