

Board of Assessors  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 9, 2018

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

Incoming Correspondence: Conflict of Interest review materials  
Open Meeting Law- Certificate of Receipt  
Special/Annual Town Meeting dates

Signatures:

- Schedule of Bills Payable: \$556.33
- Warrant & Commitment; CH 61B Conveyance Tax;  
86 Amherst St (226-22) \$1,275.00
- Monthly List of Exemptions; FY18 RE \$3,857.00
- Monthly List of Exemptions; 2017 MVE \$671.87
- Monthly List of Exemptions; 2017 MVE \$283.74
- Monthly List of Exemptions; 2017 MVE \$209.06
- Apportionments:
  - 75 Alden Street (279-31.01)
  - Allen Street (107-27.01)
  - 281 Boardman St (252-73)
  - 163 Michael Sears Rd (270-11)
  - 137 Old Amherst Rd (204-9)
  - Sabin Street (248-15)
  - South Washington St (279-12)

New Business:

- Due to changes in the federal tax code, many taxpayers paid their real estate bills before December 31. It's unclear whether the IRS will allow pre-payments of property tax for 2017 tax filings.
- Mr. Whelihan stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY18 tax bills were mailed out in a timely manner. February 1 is generally the last day to file abatement applications with the Assessors Office.

- The Board reviewed a memo requesting that Boards/Committees contact the Selectmen's Office to reserve meeting space. Discussion arose over the lack of viable meeting space within the town hall.

Discussion/Decision:

- Mr. Barry made the motion to accept the Regular Session & Executive Session minutes of the December 19, 2017 meetings. Mr. Goff seconded. The motion passed 2-0 with Mr. Minney abstaining.
- The Board approved a FY19 modification for property owned by Anne O'Seep (259-1). The property was denied Chapter 61A classification and will be now be classified under Chapter 61B.
- The Board discussed the criteria for Chapter 61B classification. The parcel(s) must have at least 5 acres in an open/natural condition, or devoted to a recreational use (per MGL) and available to the general public or to members of a non-profit organization. A recent legal dispute in a neighboring community brought forth the public access requirements regarding Chapter 61B.
- The Town Hall would be closed on January 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Day. The next Board meeting would be held on January 23 @ 6 p.m.

6:50 p.m.: Mr. Minney made the motion to move into Executive Session to discuss FY18 exemption applications 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. Barry seconded the motion.

Barry	Yes
Minney	Yes
Goff	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Barry  
Clerk