

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS' MINUTES
COMMUNITY ROOM – POLICE STATION**

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 7, 2005

Assessors Present: Chairman Jonathan L. Fein, Scott C. Bush and James J. O'Connell
Also Present: Assistant Assessor Robert P. Leclair

Assessors' Chairman Fein called the meeting to order at about 8:30 a.m.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the January 10, 2005 meeting were accepted as presented.

Public Comment/Correspondence

No one was in attendance for this portion of the meeting.

Excise

The Assessors signed the November 2004 *Monthly List of Abatements Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise*: \$140.94 from the Levy of Fiscal 2003 and \$3,079.52 from the Levy of Fiscal 2004 for a monthly total of \$3,220.46.

The Assessors signed the January 2005 *Monthly List of Abatements Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise*: \$520.43 from the Levy of Fiscal 2003 and \$1,118.12 from the Levy of Fiscal 2004 for a monthly total of \$1,638.55.

Budget FY2006

Jim O'Connell attended the February 3, 2005 meeting with the Finance Committee. Bob Leclair was scheduled to attend but had a conflict that evening. A copy of the paperwork presented to the Finance Committee was distributed. The FY2006 budget presented was essentially a carbon copy of the FY2005 budget. Contractual increases for the clerical staff and assistant assessor were the only increases. With the exception of a supplemental request for web hosting the expense request was essentially the same as last year. Bob has not heard back from the Finance Committee

Triennial Certification

Bob has just begun working on the FY2006 certification RFP. The number of abatement requests and taxpayer questions and call has delayed some of this work being completed.

Measure and List

Dave Arnold indicated that the final call back inspections have been completed and all of the data entry should have been completed by Friday 2/4/2005. We should be getting the disk with the information soon followed by the hard copy notes of the data collectors.

Abatements

A total of 91 applications for abatement were received by the February 1st deadline. Several applicants stated the reason for the application was a result of the VISION data collectors mentioning that there is an error on the property card.

Application(s) Approved

- 20 Brittany Road

Application(s) Denied

- 326 Anthony Road

Appellate Tax Board

Town Counsel Dave Martel requested a meeting to discuss the ongoing Ruth's House appeal. A representative from VISION, Dave Arnold attended the meeting as well as the assistant assessor. At the meeting Dave Martel distributed information from the appraisal firm that was hired by Ruth's House to do a preliminary analysis on the value of the property. These materials were distributed to the Assessors. Bob summarized the two-hour meeting and distributed copies of materials from Dave Martel.

Bob relayed to the Assessors that the general consensus was that the assessed values for Ruth's House for the years in question are appropriate and supportable. The Assessors agreed that there is really no need for a meeting to discuss negotiation of a lower assessed value. If Ruth's House proceeds with the ATB case, the Assessors agreed that it would be in the town's best interest to pursue the case and spend the money for an appraiser, attorney, etc.

Misc.

- A copy of an advertisement for a "reduction in taxes" seen in a local newspaper was distributed to the Board.
- Bob noted that he is scheduled to meet with the recently hired town manager on February 16, 2005.
- Bob brought in copies of the Porter Lake Drive article that discusses Springfield residents registering their cars as garaged in Longmeadow and receiving a Longmeadow excise tax bill. Bob asked the DOR legal staff for a written opinion. The Board believes that the excise bills belonging to Springfield should be collected by Springfield, regardless of whether or not people are telling their insurance agent that they live in Longmeadow.
- Jonathan Fein indicated that he would like one minor change made to the Annual Town Report that was e-mailed to the Assessors on 2/3/2005.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: – Monday, March 14, 2005 8:30 a.m.
Community Room of the Police Station

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Leclair, CMA, RMA, MAA
Assistant Assessor