

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

**MONDAY – MAY 16, 2005**

**Assessors Present:** Chairman Jonathan L. Fein, Scott C. Bush and James J. O'Connell

**Also Present:** Assistant Assessor Robert P. Leclair, Town Counsel David Martel and Acting Finance Director Paul J. Pasterczyk

**Assessors' Chairman Fein called the meeting to order at about 8:35 a.m.**

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the May 2, 2005 meeting were accepted as presented.

**Public Comment/Correspondence**

No one was in attendance for this portion of the meeting. A letter for chairman Fein was received from James Freeman, M.D. regarding personal property.

A motion was made and seconded that the Board enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation regarding an Appellate Tax Board case with the intention of returning to open session.

Jonathan Fein           - yes  
Scott Bush               - yes  
James O'Connell       - yes

Due to a scheduling conflict the meeting was moved to the fire station at around 8:45 a.m. with notice of such move posted on a marker board. Once the discussion was completed on the ATB case, the Assessors voted to return to open session.

Jonathan Fein           - yes  
Scott Bush               - yes  
James O'Connell       - yes

**Excise**

No monthly excise report is available.

**Personal Exemptions**

Four individuals notified the Assessors' Office that their personal exemption was not noted on their bill. The circumstances varied, however, in all four cases the proper application form was not received by the Assessors' Office and not processed. There was discussion regarding the two applicants who are blind and whether or not they can be considered under Clause 8 of Chapter 58. Attorney Martel reminded the Assessors that the conditions of this particular provision are very stringent.

Bob explained that he had contacted DOR attorney Chris Hinchey (5/10/2005) for guidance and that the Assessors had been e-mailed (as an attachment) the IGR relative to the criteria under which a request can be made. This IGR was reviewed at the time of a request by Dr. Ian Schein which Dave Martel had also weighed in on. According to Attorney Hinchey, the decision to write to the DOR for permission under clause 8 of 58 must be consistent with the Board's past

practice and policies. When questioned, neither Bob nor any Board member could recall making a request to the Commissioner of Revenue under this provision.

Dave Martel explained that even if the Assessors made a request of the Commissioner, which in his opinion would be difficult to compose, there is no assurance that the request would be favorable. The Board decided not to have the Assistant Assessor make a written request for either Henry Moran or Louise Muratore. If, however, it could be shown that a “reminder” letter was not sent to Ms. Muratore, the Board is willing to reconsider their position.

### **Triennial Certification**

Version 6 of VISION Appraisal software is scheduled for installation on May 17, 2005 as part of the update and certification of values for fiscal 2006. Once the installation is complete, some of the “background” work that has started off site (at VISION) can be reviewed and the process begun in earnest.

### **Abatement Application(s) Denied – Real Property**

No new applications were reviewed, however, a letter requesting an explanation of denial for a personal property account was received from James M. Freeman, M.D. A brief discussion took place regarding how the Assessors had reached their decision. Bob was asked to write a quick note to Dr. Freeman to explain the Assessors’ decision. It was recommended that the VISION appraiser’s inventory list be included with the letter as a means of explanation.

### **Misc.**

- Chairman Fein presented a letter at the meeting indicating that all elected board members’ terms will be extended beyond the annual town election of May 24, 2005. Bob had not been notified within the town, nor had he received a copy of this letter and was unaware of the situation. This apparently extends the term of James O’Connell until May 31, 2005. Earlier in the meeting Bob had noted that he had not heard how Jim’s position was going to be filled after the May 24 town election when it “officially” ended.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** – Assessors have agreed to wait and hear from Dave Martel before scheduling their next meeting and will cancel the posted meeting for May 25, 2005. When scheduled, it will be at the Community Room of the Police Station

Respectfully Submitted,

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