

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS' MINUTES
COMMUNITY ROOM – FIRE STATION
MONDAY – JULY 28, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at about 8:30 a.m.

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

NOTE: Originally scheduled meeting of July 21, 2003 was rescheduled to July 28, 2003.
This is the first meeting of fiscal 2004

Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the June 23, 2003 meeting were accepted as presented.

Public Comment/Correspondence

Dale Oleksak of the Longmeadow News came in to take pictures of all the Board members and the Assistant Assessor.

Excise

The Assessors signed the June 2003 *Monthly List of Abatements, Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise*: \$306.25 from the Levy of 2002 and \$5,958.44 from the Levy of 2003 for a monthly total of \$6,264.69.

Abatements/ATB

An updated list of ATB cases was presented to the Assessors. Several of the cases involve the centrally assessed personal property of utilities. The application of Bay Path College for property located at 906 Longmeadow Street was discussed. Bob Leclair noted that as a result of the SJC not being willing to hear the towns' appeal, 33 Farmlea Road was ruled to be exempt. A total refund of over \$24,000 was issued for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. No tax will be collected for this property in the future.

Bob distributed a letter that was sent to David Leslie who is representing 24 Tabor Crossing/Chestnut Knoll/Glenmeadow explaining the terms of the abatement negotiated with the Board.

Bob informed the Board that town counsel Dave Martel has filed a motion to dismiss the application for 901 Shaker Road due to an unauthorized agent applying without the proper authorization.

The owners of 150 Ashford Road asked if the Board could review the denial of his application for abatement. However, no further evidence was submitted and Bob's research did not show that any abatement was warranted.

Measure & List

A brief discussion took place regarding the advantages and disadvantages of contracting for the inspection of property.

Misc.

- A meeting with Charter Commission scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. was discussed. The Assessors decided that a brief presentation that covers some of the material detailed in the 2002 Town Report could be made and then allow the members of the committee to ask questions of the Assistant Assessor and the Chairman who will be representing the Board.
- The structure of town government was briefly discussed pertaining to the fact that even if the Board approved an increase in the travel stipend for the Assistant Assessor and the increase was allowed by Appropriations and voted at town meeting, it still had to be approved by the Selectmen because it is viewed as compensation.
- A notice was distributed to the Board informing them of a clerk's meeting to be held in Northampton. This meeting is sponsored by the assessors' association (MAAO) and will take place in Northampton on September 24, 2003 at Union Station. Both clerks are scheduled to attend.
- The two newest assessors, the assistant assessor and the assessors' secretary will all be attending classes at the University of Massachusetts beginning August 4 for one week.

Adjournment

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

**Next Meeting: – Tuesday, August 26, 2003
Community Room of the Police Station**

Respectfully Submitted,

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