

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS' MINUTES  
COMMUNITY ROOM – POLICE STATION  
TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 9, 2003**

**Assessors' chairman O'Connell called the meeting 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

**Acceptance of Minutes**

The minutes of the July August 26, 2003 meeting were accepted as presented.

**Public Comment/Correspondence**

None

**Excise**

The Assessors signed the August 2003 *Monthly List of Abatements, Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise*: \$193.33 from the Levy of 2002 and \$5,695.67 from the Levy of 2003 for a monthly total of \$5,889.00.

**Abatements/ATB Hearings Decisions, Ect.**

Notification was received from the ATB of a hearing for 780 Converse Street (aka Ruth's House) on December 8, 2003. Bob Leclair left a message with Dave Martel (who is on vacation) regarding the time and day of this hearing. Since this is a pending appeals court case from a prior fiscal year, Bob feels that this hearing will be postponed pending the decision of the appeals court.

**Measure & List**

Bob brought up possible alternatives to an independent contractor being hired by the town to do the inspections after having spoken with the town account about the use of funds approved at town meeting. There is a possibility that the money already appropriated could be used to hire someone part time if that individual worked exclusively on measuring and listing property. Secondly, a study could be done to determine the quality of the data or Bob could once again request that the work be postponed. Bob has inspected about 25% of all homes in town either as a result of a sale, open house, building permit, application for abatement, etc. A brief discussion took place regarding these suggestions.

**Misc.**

- The Board discussed IGR 03-206 SUPPLEMENTAL TAX ASSESSMENT ON NEW CONSTRUCTION that requires cities and towns to immediately assess new construction after January 1 upon issuance of an occupancy permit. The law is no longer a local acceptance statute and therefore applies automatically unless the DOR is notified in writing by the selectmen of its rejection. All Board members agree that there is no advantage to adopting this legislation. Bob Leclair will make the Assessors' recommendation know to the town administrator and the Board of Selectmen.

- The Assessors' meeting was interrupted by a female detective who requested that two cars parked outside the meeting room be moved because she was not able to find a spot for her car.
- Copy of a letter to MAAO secretary informing her that Scott Bush is not receiving correspondence was given to assessor Bush.
- Assessors voted to accept RL-1 forms from Twin Hills Country Club and Longmeadow Country Club that allow for a 75% discount on the open land under Chapter 61-B.
- An advertisement was placed in the Sunday Republican newspaper for a replacement for Jill who left at the end of August. About 25 résumés had already been received by the time of the Assessors' meeting Tuesday morning.
- A payment in lieu of taxes by Bay Path College was discussed briefly. Bob gave the Board an update and indicated that he had not heard anything from the Selectmen since he prepared an inventory of property owned by them indicating which are taxable and which are exempt.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:25 a.m.

**Next Meeting: – Tuesday, October 14, 2003  
Community Room of the Police Station**

Respectfully Submitted,

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