

## Charlemont Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Date: April 11, 2007

Present: Carol A. Rice, Michael E. Kane and Andrea Santos

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The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the March 28, 2007 meeting. The minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting have been e-mailed to the website.

Mrs. Rice signed a letter of introduction for Christopher Keefe, our Bureau of Local Assessment certification advisor; he will do a field review of specific parcels. The property cards that he requested at his meeting in our office have been run. He has been notified but will not be able to work in Charlemont until the end of this month. The property cards that Roy Bishop requested have also been run along with some requests of the Assessors. Mr. Bishop will be e-mailed a progress report and to notify him that some of the changes he made the last time he was here appear not to have "stuck" in the data. We will try to get a schedule of when he will be working in Charlemont. The FY 2008 cost tables have been received from the Community Software Consortium; Mr. Bishop will install them.

The monthly list of FY 2007 real estate taxes abated for the month of March, 2007 was voted and signed in the total amount of \$1,007.89.

There was an issue about FY 2007 and FY 2006 personal property assessment/taxes for household furnishings. Research showed that the FY 2006 bill was due but that the FY 2007 amount should not have been assessed. After discussion the Assessors voted and approved an administrative abatement in the amount of \$103.61 and also signed the abatement certificate. Mrs. Rice signed a letter of explanation; a copy of the personal property law with the effective date of assessment will be enclosed. Two personal property issues regarding the assessment of trailers in the campgrounds were reviewed. Since both bills are properly assessed, a letter of explanation was signed by Mrs. Rice for each owner. The bills will be returned for payment and a copy of the personal property assessment law enclosed for their information.

The Board signed the 2006 motor vehicle excise warrant and commitment #8 in the amount of \$237.19. It also signed the warrant and commitment for 2007 motor vehicle excise commitment #2 in the amount of \$10,684.58. Both had an issue date of April 11, 2007. The bills and commitment pages were forwarded to Mrs. Hathaway in a timely manner. The monthly list of 2007 motor vehicle excise abated for the month of March 2007 in the amount of \$426.46 and the monthly list of 2006 motor vehicle excise abated for the month of March, 2007 in the amount of \$155.42 were voted and signed by the Board. Three motor vehicle excise abatement applications were discussed and approved; the abatement certificates were also signed. A letter forwarded by Mrs. Hathaway was reviewed and discussed by the Board; Mrs. Rice signed a letter explaining why the excise is due and what the owner needs to do in order to qualify for an abatement. Six corrections for town of garaging were signed by the Assessors to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

A notice was received from the Appellate Tax Board noting the reassignment of pending cases by county. Since we have no ATB cases for FY 2007, the information will be filed.

A DLS Alert was received regarding the FY 2008 resolution of the Chapter 70, Additional Assistance and Lottery aid to be paid. The report was downloaded. Charlemont's Chapter 70 aid will be \$130,303

(an increase of \$25,845 over the previous year) and the Lottery aid will be \$217,551 (an increase of \$4,623 over the previous year). Charlemont had no Additional Assistance listed. It was noted that the other aid amounts may still change as the budget process continues at the State level. A Bulletin gave information on the New Officials Finance Forum at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on Thursday, July 7, 2007 from 8:45 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. The cost is \$50. Registration and more information is available online. No one from our office plans to attend.

The Assessors' Secretary from Gill mentioned a symposium-type meeting in Deerfield on April 5 sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureau on the new Chapter land laws. Mrs. Purinton found out about it just before it happened and already had a previous commitment for that evening. It is hoped that another such meeting will take place in this area for assessors.

The return of forest products cut forms for calendar year 2006 are being returned; even with the note that personal cordwood is no longer exempt, only the couple of property owners that have declared cutting personal cordwood right along declared any. The intent to cut plans were compared to the returns and it was found that two Chapter 61 property owners have not declared a harvest that should have been completed. Letters will be sent to them asking for information regarding the harvests.

Since no one besides the Assessors and secretary was present, Mrs. Purinton's employee evaluation was completed at the meeting. Mrs. Purinton reviewed and signed the evaluation and the Assessors also signed it. It will be turned in to the Executive Secretary on Friday.

The April, 2007 edition of City and Town was reviewed.

Each Assessor received a notice for membership in the I.A.A.O. Sulkin Company has a bookbinding sale in effect through June; the amount left in our budget and the number of documents to be bound will determine if any are done this year. Our Postmaster gave us a copy of the proposed new postage rates that will take effect in May. A display of Tax Saving Tips was delivered by the Secretary of State's office – it contains cards with information about the Assessors office and also personal exemptions. It will be publicized and displayed when personal exemptions are sent out in August. Miscellaneous ads and offers were reviewed and will be recycled.

Mrs. Fantucchio will be called regarding the listing and measuring of new units at the Mohawk Park Campground. An updated listing of our records of camper owners and addresses can be sent to her for her review and then an appointment needs to be made, hopefully for next week, for the actual inspection. The Board will be notified of a time and date.

Monday, April 16, is Patriots' Day and the Town Hall will be closed. Mrs. Purinton needs to use part of a day, which was approved by the Board, and will contact an Assessor to approve her hours.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Jean Purinton

Secretary