

Charlemont Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22, 2009

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

The meeting was convened at: 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Santos discussed with the Board her meeting with the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen agreed to include the Farm Animal and Machinery Excise option on the Town Meeting agenda. Ms. Santos also discussed the camper and trailer excise issue and informed the Selectboard that we cannot have a fee in lieu of excise as previously thought. Ms. Santos also discussed her inspection of a residence for an abatement application.

A letter to a resident who filed a Motor Vehicle Abatement application without documentation was drafted and signed. An abatement application in the amount of \$32.75 was approved. Abatement certificates 1241-1244 were signed.

Exemption Reimbursement submitted to the State was reviewed, voted and signed by the Board of Assessors. Three real estate abatement applications were approved. The Board of Assessors voted to abate a permanent \$14,600 of value for condition, a one-time \$43,400 of value for demolition, and a permanent \$22,000 of value for Chapter 61 land.

The Board of Assessors voted to send a 2nd request Form of List to all camper owners, businesses, and second home owners that did not submit a Form of List for fiscal year 2010. Included with the Forms of List will be a form letter stating the purpose for the second mailing and the institution of a "minimum assessment" without a returned Form of List. The Board of Assessors also voted to send out applications to potential farm owners to be considered a "farm" and therefore receive a reduced assessed value on personal property. A form letter to send out to camper/trailer owners who filed abatement applications was signed informing them of the impending inspection of the campgrounds and that all removed trailers would be administratively abated. A letter was received from the tax collector informing the Board of an administrative abatement required for land that was sold to the State. The Board of Assessors composed a memo to the tax collector asking the exact amount of the uncollectible balance.

A resume was received from an Assessors' consultant; the resume was filed for future reference. A letter to the Accountant was drafted in response to a request for the overlay account money to be transferred to the general fund. The Assessors voted against releasing the funds due to pending litigation of the telecommunication companies. The Board of Assessors was informed that they would only be receiving one key for the entire board to gain entry into the town hall. The Board of Assessors requested that a letter be drafted stating the need for each Board member to have a key. The Assessors' Secretary from the Town of Hawley requested tax maps for the town line. The Board voted to provide the maps at no charge if we had extra copies from previous years; if we had no extra copies, we would have to charge Hawley for the expense of printing copies. A summer meeting schedule was decided on for the following dates: June 17, July 22, and August 19. Ms. Stegner's up and coming vacation was discussed and it was agreed that Ms. Purinton will keep open office hours while Ms. Stegner is away. A bill for consulting services in the amount of \$525.00 was submitted to the Board of Assessors by Ms. Purinton; it was approved and signed. A contract with the new tax mapping company, Cartographic Associates, was signed approving the \$670 fee for services. A letter from Point Software was tabled until the next meeting. The Tax Map corrections have been done and will be submitted to Cartographic Associates after receipt of the original mylars from Sulkin are received. There are four books to be bound that will be sent to the bindery in June. Ms. Stegner provided the

Board of Assessors with business cards from her personal funds. The Board voted to have Josh come in to link the office computer to Ms. Stegner's business home computer.

All publications and advertisements were reviewed and filed.

The Board of Assessors scheduled inspections of Mohawk Park Campground and Country Aire Campground for Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 10 am and Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 1 pm respectively. Also scheduled is a walkthrough of a residence on Saturday April 25, 2009 at 12:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held May 6, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Bree Stegner

Secretary