

Charlemont Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Date: August 19th, 2009

Present: Andrea Santos, Carol Rice and Sarah Reynolds

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

The minutes from June 17th, 2009 were reviewed and signed by the Board. The minutes from June 3rd, 2009 were emailed to the website.

Three motor vehicle excise abatement applications were tabled until the residents pay their excise bills in full. Applicants were sent a letter notifying them that in order to process an abatement application, the bill must be paid in full. Two motor vehicle excise abatement applications were denied because the applicants were submitting applications for abatement due to overvaluation. The two applicants were sent letters informing them that the valuation is set by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Motor Vehicle Excise abatement certificates 1251-1252 were signed by the Board. Warrant and Commitment #4 in the amount of \$6,659.35 and Warrant and Commitment #99 in the amount of \$812.50 were voted and signed by the Board. Monthly lists for August 2008 in the amount of \$5.00, August 2009 in the amount of \$23.75, and July 2009 in the amount of \$0.00 were voted and signed by the Board. A report received from the Registry of Motor Vehicles was not understood by any of the Board members. The Board requested that the RMV be contacted to explain the report. Changes of garaging were signed by the Board to be submitted to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Warrant and Commitment for dealer plates in the amount of \$300.00 were voted and signed by the Board.

Omitted and Revised assessment report to be submitted to the Department of Revenue in the amount of \$0.00 for fiscal year 2009 was voted and signed by the Board. A letter from a property owner concerned about the valuation of their property was read aloud. A letter was drafted to the property owner informing them to submit an application for abatement after the actual tax bills are mailed if they would like to pursue the matter further. Building permits for July were reviewed. Four letters were drafted to Chapter 61 recipients requesting funds to put a lien on their property in place. The Board was informed of a new applicant to Chapter 61. The Board considered and approved a Chapter 61 application for land on Maxwell Road. All Chapter 61 renewal applications were mailed. Forester certificates were signed by the Chairman. A Veterans letter was received; the Board will wait until the application for exemption is received before considering the letter. A Warrant and Commitment for the Preliminary Real Estate Tax Commitment for fiscal year 2010 was voted and approved in the amount of \$987,161.76. Monthly Real Estate abatement lists for the months of August in the amount of \$0.00 and July in the amount of \$0.00 were voted and approved.

Two farm status applications were approved and letters of notification of action were drafted to the farm owners. The Board was reminded that the due date for farm status application submission is August 31, 2009. A letter to the Department of Revenue regarding the late submission of a form 3ABC was signed by the chairman. Ms. Stegner discussed a conversation that she had with a property owner regarding the incorrect information on a property record card. The Board of Assessors voted that the correct information would not change the valuation. The preliminary warrant and commitment for personal property for fiscal year 2010 in the amount of \$45,532.40 was voted and signed by the Board. The Assessors discussed the issue of individuals using campers as a residence and whether they were taxable as personal property. The Assessors found that if they are used as permanent structures, they can be taxed as real estate. The Board will consider this issue in more detail at a later meeting and contact the Board of Health about the structures used as residences.

A letter from another town requesting information was read aloud. A new contract for tax map services was tabled. The Assessors reviewed new registered plans from the Registry of Deeds. The Assessors voted to have the mapping company fix an error in the new maps. Invoices for mileage and petty cash were approved and signed by the chairman. The Board members were all given copies of the new Town Employee policy. A letter to the Selectmen was signed asking for a new phone number for the new fax machine that the Board will be receiving.

All publications and advertisements were reviewed and filed.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Bree Stegner

Secretary