

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS PUBLIC MEETING  
TOWN OF CHARLEMONT**

June 28, 2010

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Sarah Reynolds Dave Cunningham and Simon Dean. Also present were Jean Brisson, Assessor's Liaison, Dohn Sherman and Peter Curtis.

1. The Board met with their Select Board Liaison, Jean Brisson to discuss some concerns they had with their Consultant, Roy Bishop. The Board noted that on several occasions, they have found building permits being checked off as inspected by Mr. Bishop, yet no changes have been made to reflect the additions. Another concern the Board has is that the Secretary has reported that on several occasions when she has asked Bishop to follow up on a Taxpayer with a question on their property, Bishop promises he will, but does not follow through. The Secretary mentioned two Taxpayers who have called her office on at least three occasions, asking why no one has contacted them yet when she has promised that someone will. The Secretary explained that understandably, some of these people have become very irate. Brisson and the Board discussed some options such as writing Bishop a letter, reiterating the services that he has contracted for and that these services need to be completed, it was suggested that copies of this letter to the Board of Selectmen and the Department of Revenue, so that the issues are documented. Another suggestion was to ask Bishop to come to a meeting. The Board will start compiling a list of services that need to be completed.
2. At 7:30 P.M., the Board met with Dohn Sherman, son of a property owner on Route 8A, to try to figure out with the Board which parcels were his father's. Dohn produced several deeds with regard to the parcels, and compared them to the Assessor's map. It was found that a parcel which was previously listed as unknown owner in fact belongs to Mr. Sherman, and another that was believed to be owned by Sherman does not. The Board decided that in order to straighten out all the properties, they would need to go to the Registry of Deeds. Reynolds and Dean will set up a day to go and attempt to straighten them all out. The Secretary will let Dohn know what is found.
3. At 8:15 P.M., the Board met with Peter Curtis, property owner who has made at least three requests for an inspection of his properties on Route 2 to determine that they are being fairly assessed, and to date, he has not been contacted. The Board apologized and explained that since they and their Secretary are all new, they deferred to their Consultant to check properties. The Secretary stated that she has had several conversations with Bishop asking him to contact Mr. Curtis and go view the property. Bishop promised each time that he would but so far has not. Mr. Curtis explained that he has appealed to this Board in the past, as he feels his property is being assessed way higher than other properties along Route 2, and further, he stated that he pays more for vacant land in Charlemont than he does for the Mole Hollow Factory he owns in Shelburne. The Board set up a site visit with Mr. Curtis for Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to view his properties. Curtis thanked the Board for their time.
4. The Board reviewed the minutes of their 6-14-10 meeting. Cunningham made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Reynolds and passed unanimously.
5. The Board signed the monthly list of motor vehicle, Real Estate and Personal Property abatements for June.
6. The Board signed the FY 2010 preliminary real estate and personal property commitment.
7. The Board signed excise commitments #1, and #3R.
8. The Board signed a statement for inclusion in the 2009 bound Commitment book.
9. The Board reviewed and signed 2 copies of a Records Disposal Schedule.

10. The Board approved paying the following invoices; an invoice from A.M. Sulkin for their bound deeds book and a request for payment for Office supplies.
  11. The Board discussed getting some training so that they would be able to inspect building permits themselves. The Secretary told the Board she was instructed by a Select Board member to use any training money in their budget to pursue this, and if more was needed, it could be put on as a Warrant. The Board felt that this would save money in the long run and many towns do their own.
  12. The Board discussed the construction of a large garage on 8A north. Dean said that he spoke with the Building Inspector and was told he was aware of it.
  13. The Board read an email from a DOT surveyor, as passed on by the Hawley Assessor's Office, stating that they were unable to locate the granite marker which originally denoted the Charlemont/Hawley town line, i.e.: the Zoar Corner. The Surveyor stated that they could assist with writing the new town line description, but that the line must be determined by Charlemont and Hawley. The Hawley Assessor asked if the Charlemont Select Board would meet with them to discuss this. The Board noted that the issue is on the Select Board's agenda this week and, since they had not been contacted by the Select Board, decided to draft a memo the Select Board asking to be kept abreast of what is decided, as the original petition had to come from their office.
- Business being concluded, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, June 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

At 9:12 p.m., a motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Cunningham to enter into Executive Session, with the intent of not returning to open meeting, in order to deliberate on pending abatement applications, pursuant to MGL ch. 59:60.

**Roll Call:**

Voting yes: Reynolds, Cunningham, Dean.

Voting no: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene Millett,  
Assessor's Secretary