

Charlemont Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Date: May 9, 2007

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

The meeting was convened at 6:34 p.m.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 25, 2007 meeting. The minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting have been e-mailed to the website.

The Board reviewed and Mrs. Rice signed bills to be submitted for payment. Included were the requests for membership dues for the Franklin County Assessors Association and registration/meal choices for the F.C.A.A. annual meeting to be held on June 12 in Sunderland. Other amounts to be expended were estimated so that the Board would have an idea of the amount remaining in the Assessors Expense account.

There was discussion about inspecting the remaining campers at the Indian Plaza. It was decided that Ms. Santos would contact Mr. Roberts and set up the inspection for Sunday, May 13, at 3:30 p.m. If the inspections are not allowed, the Board will have to assess what is there with what information is available. The other two Assessors will be contacted by Ms. Santos.

A phone message and personal property printout for FY 2007 was received from Mrs. Hathaway. The person does not want to pay the bill because the camper has been removed from the campground. A letter was prepared stating that since the camper was there on January 1, 2006, the bill is correct and needs to be paid; Mrs. Rice signed the letter. There was discussion about the possibility of the RMV assisting if the camper is registered in the future. The campground has verified that the camper was not there on January 1, 2007 so the account will be deleted for FY 2008.

The Assessors signed a special warrant for pre-payment of FY 2008 real estate taxes in the amount of \$600.00.

The letter requested following discussion of a property owner's concerns about his property area and that of his neighbor's and the research done was reviewed and signed by Mrs. Rice.

The FY 2008 tax map updates were prepared and mailed to the Sewall Company.

A revaluation update was provided. Our certification advisor returned the cards used for his inspections and his listing of "issues". The Board reviewed an overview of his comments and also was given a copy of his list. Some of the issues were very minor in the opinion of the Board. The listing will be given to Mr. Bishop so that corrections can be made. He was in the office on May 1 for a couple of hours and rolled over the personal property data to FY 2008; he also installed the FY 2008 cost reports using the disk provided by the Community Software Consortium. He took the property cards that were run at his request for his inspections and also those for properties that the Assessors requested be inspected.

The monthly list of 2007 motor vehicle excise abated for April was voted and signed in the amount of \$410.83 by the Board. Two motor vehicle excise abatement applications were reviewed and approved by the Assessors; the abatement certificates were also signed.

The Division of Local Services sent the FY 2008 Assessors Qualification Summary to be updated. There was only one small correction. Linda Wagner signed the summary as Town Clerk. The Board approved it; it will be faxed to DLS.

The Franklin County Assessors Assoc. sent notice of the Annual Meeting to be held on June 12 in Sunderland. The guest speaker's topic is the changes to the Chapter land law. All Assessors and the secretary will attend; meal choices were marked and Mrs. Rice signed the reservation form so that a check can be sent.

The change to quarterly tax billing passed at Annual Town Meeting. Research was done to determine what we have to do in order to notify the D.O.R. A copy of the research was made for each Assessor.

The building permit summary for April was reviewed. There was one property owner who seems to be doing more than the permit specifies; after discussion it was decided that it was the building inspector's issue and not an Assessors' issue. The summary of certificates of use and occupancy for April was also reviewed.

A memo was received from the Selectmen regarding the surplus equipment sale to be held at the Highway Department on May 17. We need to get our computer components to the Highway Department on May 16; Ms. Santos will bring them there.

There was a reminder of the FRCOG Regional Assessor Service discussion at the Court House on Thursday, May 24, at 5:30 p.m. The telephone number and e-mail RSVP were provided.

The Assessors received postal cards from the IAAO regarding a survey that will be sent to them as non-members of the organization.

Miscellaneous items were reviewed including e-mail notice of a workshop for local businesses that wish to do business with the Commonwealth. There was a pamphlet on Highland Happenings and other items which will be recycled.

The next Board meeting will be on May 23.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Santos, Assessor

Gloria Jean Purinton, Secretary