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TOWN CLERK

OPEN SESSION

2020 MAY 13 AM 11:48

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at approximately 6:10 PM. Present were Chairman Steve McCarthy, Member Paula Bunker, and Principal Assessor John Donahue. The Chairman announced that Clerk Cheryl Smith was participating remotely via telephone and that Principal Secretary Daniela Nilsson was recording the minutes of the meeting remotely via telephone. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the town hall was closed to the public. However, the public was allowed to listen to the meeting via teleconference and to watch a live broadcast of the meeting via community access television.

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded by community access television. The Principal Assessor read aloud the Board of Assessors' State of Emergency Public Access Notice from the publicly posted Revised Agenda stating that, due to the increasing concerns surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting would be open to the public through remote participation only, and he also stated the telephone number and access code needed to join the live teleconference. The State of Emergency Public Access Notice also stated the meeting was being broadcast live via community access television's local channel 09.

The Principal Assessor stated that he had emailed the Board a detailed explanation of the work being done remotely from home this week by himself and the staff members. The Principal Assessor asked the Board Members how they felt about the current physical, in-person, meeting status and recommended that the Board meet remotely, as suggested by the Town Administrator. Chairman McCarthy and Member Bunker were in favor of keeping the regular meeting schedule as is, and to continue meeting face to face. Clerk Smith stated she felt more comfortable participating remotely during this State of Emergency - as she has been doing for the previous two meetings.

The Principal Assessor stated that he discussed recent legislation, enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Collector/Treasurer. As a result, the Collector has recommended that the Board of Selectmen exercise its authority to adopt section 11 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, to allow the extension of time for incurring interest charges and fees to June 1, 2020. Similarly, the Principal Assessor recommended that the Board of Assessors request that the Board of Selectmen exercise its authority to locally adopt section 10(a)(iv) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 to extend the deadline for filing Applications for Statutory Exemptions and Deferrals from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Chairman McCarthy agreed and made a **motion** to extend the deadline from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 for filing Applications for Statutory Exemptions and Deferrals and to request that the Board of Selectmen exercise its authority to locally adopt section 10(a)(iv) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 - granting such authority - at its meeting tonight. The motion was seconded by Member Bunker. A **roll call vote** was taken as follows: Chairman McCarthy = affirmative, Clerk Smith = affirmative, Member Bunker = affirmative.

Bills Payable, Motor Vehicle Excise Certificates, and Statutory Exemption Certificates were presented for the Board Member's approval and signatures.

A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to adjourn the Open Session and to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss Applications for Abatement/Exemption, relative to Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law (OML), in compliance with MGL CH 59, section 60, and also to review and discuss pending Appellate Tax Board litigation, relative to Purposes 3 and 7 of the OML, because to do so in open session could have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Board of Assessors, and not to reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. A **roll call vote** was taken as follows: Chairman McCarthy = affirmative, Clerk Smith = affirmative, Member Bunker = affirmative. The Board adjourned Open Session and entered Executive Session at approximately 6:17 P.M.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2020

I certify that the minutes of this meeting are true and accurate to the best of my recollection.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Smith, Clerk

Prepared by Principal Secretary, Daniela Nilsson

Documents referenced during the meeting:

- *Bills payable, Motor Vehicle Excise, Statutory Exemptions, Exemption Certificates, and other administrative documents referenced during the meeting.*