

## OPEN SESSION

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at approximately 6:02 PM. Present were Chairman Steve McCarthy, Clerk Cheryl Smith, Member Paula Bunker and Principal Secretary Daniela Nilsson. Principal Assessor John Donahue was unable to attend. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was closed to the public. However, the public was allowed to listen to the meeting via teleconference and to view a recording of the meeting via community access television.

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded by community access television. He announced that in Executive Session on April 27, 2021 the Board voted to Abate Real Estate/Personal Property Abatement Application #11 and deny applications #14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 34, 41, 42, 45/46. He also stated Town Hall reopened to the public on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Chairman stated that the Principal Assessor was still recovering and was on a medical leave for longer than expected. He stated that he wanted the Principal Assessor to do some work from home. He stated that he had some communication with him and told him to focus on his recovery and take as much time as he needed but, as time has passed, some pressing issues need to be worked on, in particular Appellate Tax Board issues. Member Bunker asked if the Chairman had spoken to David Gagne, the Town Administrator, because this goes against what the Town Administrator has stated in the past. The Chairman stated he had not yet spoken to him, but will do so, and let him know that due to the extenuating circumstance the Chairman will authorize the Principal Assessor to do some work from home. Clerk Smith was in agreement with the Chairman. Member Bunker inquired if there was any sort of plan such as what needed to be done and how many hours. The Chairman stated he did not have a plan yet, but felt the Appellate Tax Board work was priority #1. He was particularly concerned with the eminent cases that needed to either be negotiated or go to trial and stated that these cases are big liabilities to the Town and that he had done a lot of work in preparation for them. He stated the best thing he could do for the Town was to work on these cases with the Principal Assessor and hopefully get an extension for the upcoming hearings. Member Bunker was concerned that the Principal Assessor may not be fit to work while out on a medical leave and the possibility of consequences if he worked from home without proper medical clearance. The Chairman stated he would not be doing anything that would stress him out and only things that were urgent and can easily be done from home.

The Principal Secretary stated that Larry Silva from Silva Engineering had been into the office today to look at old Assessor's maps and he had offered to scan the old maps free of charge so an electronic file could be stored to preserve the map and make it more user friendly. The Chairman stated that he has had to use old maps and knows the value in them and gave permission for the maps to be scanned and preserved.

Real/Personal Tax Abatements/Exemption applications/Certificates or Denials, Monthly Lists for Real Estate Abatements, and the Warrant and Commitment for AJAX PILOT Agreement were presented for signatures.

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
2021 AUG -5 AM 9:50  
TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER, MA

A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Clerk Smith. Voted 3-0-0. The Board adjourned at approximately 6:12 P.M.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2021

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl Smith, Clerk

Prepared by Principal Secretary, Daniela Nilsson

*Documents referenced during the meeting:*

- *Warrant & Commitment, Real/Personal Property Tax Abatement Applications, Monthly Lists for Real Estate Abatements and other administrative documents referenced during the meeting*