

## OPEN SESSION

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at approximately 6:12 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 is 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 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 recited the telephone number and access code needed to join the live teleconference. The State of Emergency Pubic Access Notice also states that meeting was being broadcast live via community access television's local channel 09.

The Principal Assessor stated that the Governor of Massachusetts had extended his "work from home" order to May 18, 2020. The Principal Assessor will continue to send weekly updates to the Board to keep them apprised as to the work being accomplished remotely from home. The Chairman stated that the emails have been informative and were appreciated.

The Principal Assessor stated there were two 'Chapter Land' properties on the agenda tonight, regarding the town's Right of First Refusal to purchase the properties. The first property is Map 53 Lot 27, also known as 20 Cross Street. The Chairman asked if it was the property that had been discussed a few years ago. The Principal Assessor thinks this is an abutting property. The Principal Assessor recommended the Board of Assessors notify the Board of Selectmen not exercise its right of first refusal. A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to recommend that the Town not act on its right of first refusal, seconded by Member Bunker. A roll call vote was taken; Clerk Smith = Yes, Member Bunker = Yes, Chairman McCarthy = Yes.

The second property is Map 71 Lot 002, also known as 0 Maple Street. Again, the Chairman recommended that the Board of Selectmen not exercise its right of refusal. A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to recommend that the Town not exercise its right of first refusal, seconded by Member Bunker. A roll call vote was taken; Clerk Smith = Yes, Member Bunker = Yes, Chairman McCarthy = Yes.

Warrants, motor vehicle, and statutory exemption certificates were presented for signatures.

Minutes were presented for Open Session February 5, February 19, March 18, and April 15, 2020. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion of the minutes presented but there was none. Chairman McCarthy made a **motion** to accept the Open Session minutes for February 5,

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February 19, March 18, and April 15, 2020, seconded by Member Bunker. A roll call vote was taken; Clerk Smith = Yes, Member Bunker = Yes, Chairman McCarthy = Yes.

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 6:20 P.M.

Next Meeting: May 20, 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.*