

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at approximately 6:03 PM. Present were Chairman Stephen McCarthy, Clerk Cheryl Smith, Member Paula Bunker and Principal Assessor John Donahue. The following members of the public were in attendance: Gianna Damiano, Tessy Damiano, Darrin Bradford, Deborah Cauley, Selectman Denise Reyes, John Cruz, Daniel Reyes and Marcie Lee.

The Chairman announced to all in attendance the meeting was being recorded.

The Principal Assessor handed out a Revised Agenda to the Board of Assessors and to the public. Mr. Donahue stated the Assessors' Office had received a second Open Meeting Law (OML) complaint from Deborah Cauley (dated June 18, 2018) after the original Agenda had been posted; which necessitated a revision of the Executive Session Agenda in order to allow the Board to discuss the second complaint that evening, if it so desired. Mr. Donahue stated that he consulted the Attorney General's Office, the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Board of Assessors on the matter and consequently revised the Agenda after discussion with the chairman. Mr. Donahue advised the Board that it could either discuss the second complaint this evening or postpone any discussion of the second complaint until the Board's next meeting, so as to avoid any potential violation of the OML. The consensus of the Board was to allow discussion of the second OML complaint because it was filed by the same individual and emanated from the same subject matter as the first complaint.

Mr. Ben Smith, of West Bridgewater Cable Access TV, made a presentation to the Board regarding his proposal to televise Board of Assessors' meetings. Mr. Smith and the Board discussed the number of cameras and personnel to be employed in videotaping of meetings along with the potential location of cameras and personnel, so that neither would interfere with the conduct of the Board's business. Mr. Smith assured the Board that he would use small, high-tech recording devices which could be remotely operated so as not to disrupt the decorum of the Board's meetings. Mr. Smith agreed that all recording devices would be turned off and removed from the meeting room whenever the Board convened in Executive session. Board members expressed several other concerns and the presentation concluded with Mr. Smith agreeing to return at a later date to exhibit the equipment that would be used and to give a demonstration of the placement and remote-control handling of the equipment

The Principal Assessor made the following announcements to the Board:

- The Board's FY19 Omitted and Revised Assessment Report has been prepared by the Principal Assessor and awaits the Board's electronic signatures and subsequent submission via the DOR's Gateway system. The Principal Assessor requested the Board's permission to electronically sign the Board member's individual signatures prior to submission. Chairman McCarthy and Clerk Smith granted their permission. Member Bunker denied permission, stating she preferred to sign it herself;

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
18 AUG -2 AM 8:05
FILE NO. 18-001
WEST BRIDGEWATER, MA

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Planning Board's meeting of May 23rd.

The Board signed all warrants and bills payable as presented.

The Board reviewed & signed MV/Trailer/Boat Excise Abatement Certificates/Denials.

The Board reviewed & signed Property Tax Abatement/Exemption Certificates/Denials.

The Board reviewed and signed monthly MV/Trailer/Boat Excise warrants.

The minutes of the February 7, 2018, May 16, 2018 and June 6, 2018 regular meetings were submitted for acceptance and approval. Motion made by Clerk Smith and seconded by Chairman McCarthy to accept and approve the minutes of the February 7th, May 16th and June 6th regular meetings. Voted favorably 2-1-0 (Bunker opposed).

Clerk Smith made a motion for the Board to enter Executive Session to discuss FY17 and FY18 Applications for Abatement, relative to Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law, Pending Appellate Tax Board Litigation relative to Purposes 3 and 7 of the Open Meeting Law, and to review two Open Meeting Law complaints filed by Deborah Cauley on May 21, 2018 and June 18, 2018, respectively, relative to Purpose 1 (?), and to reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Chairman McCarthy. A roll call was taken as follows: Chairman McCarthy = affirmative, Clerk Smith = affirmative. Member Bunker = affirmative. The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 6:34 PM.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 6:50 PM.

Clerk Smith made a motion for the Board to sign and submit its response to Deborah Cauley's Open Meeting Law complaints of May 21, 2018 and June 18, 2018, respectively, as reviewed and discussed in Executive Session. McCarthy and Smith voted in the affirmative. Bunker voted in the negative.

The Board discussed a Summer schedule and concluded it would not convene during the month of July. The next meeting will be held on August 1, 2018.

The Board adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Smith, Clerk