

OPEN SESSION

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The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at approximately 6:02 PM. Present were Chairman Steve McCarthy, Clerk Cheryl Smith, Member Paula Bunker, and Principal Assessor John Donahue. 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 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 Public Access Notice also stated the meeting was being broadcast live via community access television's local channel 09.

The Principal Assessor gave the Board an update on the Covid-19 pandemic. He stated that Town Hall had re-opened to the public on Monday, July 13, 2020. New safety measures are now in place to protect both employees and visitors such as, asking that everyone wear a mask, placing contact tracing 'sign-in logs' at all public counters, plastic sheeting in front of the public service counters and plastic sheeting around and between individual employee's desks inside of the Assessor's office.

The Principal Assessor stated that a job advertisement for the part-time Principal Assessors' Secretary position had been placed with the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO) and Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA). The ad was also placed on Indeed.com today and has already generated about 50 applications.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) Renewal Agreement, Warrants for bills payable, Warrant for Betterment, Motor Vehicle Abatements, Statutory Exemptions, and certificates were presented for signatures.

A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to accept the minutes of the open session meeting of May 20, 2020 and was seconded by Clerk Smith. Member Bunker stated she had not had a chance to review them and would abstain. Voted 2-0-1.

A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to adjourn the Open Session and to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss negotiation of the Principal Assessor's Employment Agreement, relative to Purpose 2, MGL CH 59, section 60; 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 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 6:10 P.M.

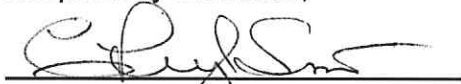
The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 6:25 P.M. Clerk Smith was no longer in attendance. The Principal Assessor stated that negotiations will continue at the next meeting.

A **motion** was made by Member Bunker to adjourn, seconded by Chairman McCarthy. Voted 2-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Next Meeting: August 5, 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, Warrant for Betterment, GIS Renewal Agreement, Motor Vehicle certificates & monthly lists, Abatement certificates & monthly lists, Statutory Exemption certificates & monthly lists and other administrative documents referenced during the meeting.*