

OPEN SESSION

2021 DEC -2 AM 9:40

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at approximately 6:05 PM. Present were Chairman Steve McCarthy, Clerk Cheryl Smith, Member Paula Bunker, Principal Assessor John Donahue and Principal Secretary Daniela Nilsson. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was open to the public via remote participation only. A video recording of the meeting was documented by community access television.

The Chairman publicly announced that the meeting was being recorded by community access television. The Principal Assessor read aloud the State of Emergency Public Access Notice from the agenda.

The Principal Assessor stated a memo had been received from the Town Administrator and copied to the Board of Assessors and Board of Selectmen stating the Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Classification Hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. The Chairman inquired if the Assessors' office would be prepared by that date. The Principal Assessor stated he was working on it; he stated Patriot Properties was still doing data entry too. Member Bunker stated that the memo also requested that the paperwork be submitted to the Town Administrator on November 12th. The Principal Assessor stated that he was doing all he could with the office staff, Patriot Properties had to enter their data, and the Department of Revenue has to approve all submissions prior to the Classification Hearing packet being submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

The Principal Assessor shared the newly released Information Department of Revenue's (DOR) Guideline Release No. 21-24 regarding Property Tax Exemptions for Solar Powered, Wind Powered, Fuel Cell Powered, and Energy Storage Systems. He stated he had not fully reviewed it yet but he believed it had a grandfather clause for the exemptions already granted. He stated he might contact the Department of Revenue for clarification.

The Principal Assessor stated next on the agenda was a Right of First Refusal for a piece of classified land located on Matfield Street. The Chairman made a **motion** to recommend not exercising the Right of First Refusal. Seconded by Clerk Smith. Voted 3-0-0.

The Principal Assessor stated next on the agenda was ratification of his employment contract. At the previous meeting, the Board stated in open session that although the contract was executed in executive session, the Board did not vote to do so in open session. He stated he had called the Attorney General's office for guidance and was advised to take a vote in open session. The Chairman made a **motion** to accept the contract from October 13, 2021 as signed by the Board of Assessors and the Principal Assessor. Seconded by Clerk Smith. Voted 2-1-0, opposed by Member Bunker.

The Principal Assessor stated next on the agenda was reorganization of the Board, as requested by the Chairman at the previous Board of Assessors' meeting. The Chairman stated that he has been the Chairman since 2006 and there is often a misconception that the Chairman is in charge but really there is equal weight on the entire Board. He stated his strength is appraisal work but he is not always comfortable with the procedural aspects of

conducting meetings as the Chair. He stated overall he is happy with how things have gone with his time as Chairman but felt it was time for someone else to take the position. He recommended Clerk Smith as Chairman and Member Bunker as Clerk. The Chairman made a **motion** to make Cheryl Smith Chairman effective next meeting. Seconded by Clerk Smith. Voted 3-0-0. The Chairman made a **motion** to make Paula Bunker Clerk effective next meeting. Seconded by Clerk Smith. Voted 3-0-0.

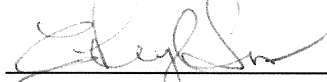
Warrants/Bills Payable, Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Certificates or Denials, and Chapter Land Applications and Notice of Actions were presented for signatures.

A **motion** was made by Chairman McCarthy to adjourn the Open Session and to enter into Executive Session in order to Review Applications for Abatement/Exemption/Classification, relative to Purpose 7, MGL CH 59, section 60, and to review and discuss strategy of pending Appellate Tax Board Cases, relative to Purpose 3 and 7, MGL CH 59, section 60, because to do so in open session could be detrimental effect on the Board's litigating position; and not to reconvene in Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Clerk Smith. A **roll call vote** was taken as follows: Chairman McCarthy = affirmative, Clerk Cheryl Smith = affirmative, Member Bunker = affirmative. The Board adjourned Open Session and entered Executive Session at approximately 6:19 P.M.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2021

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:

- *Warrants/Bills Payable, Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Certificates or Denials, and Chapter Land Applications and Notice of Actions and any miscellaneous administrative documents referenced during the meeting*