

OPEN SESSION

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, June 06, 2018 at approximately 6:00 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, Selectman Anthony Kinahan, Deborah Cauley, Selectman Denise Reyes, John Cruz, Mark McCloud, Rue and Jon Kream, Daniel Reyes and Marcie Malloy Lee.

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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 everyone in attendance. Mr. Donahue stated the Assessors' Office had received an email earlier in the day asserting that an Executive Session Agenda item lacked sufficient particularity and further, that two Executive Session items did not state the purpose for which such discussion would qualify for exclusion from open session discussion. Mr. Donahue explained that he consulted the Attorney General's Office, the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Board on the matter and revised the Agenda, at the direction of the chairman, in order to allow the Board to discuss all items listed under the Executive Session section of the Revised Agenda without any potential violation(s) of the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Donahue advised the Board that it could postpone any such discussion(s) until its next meeting so as to further avoid any potential violation of the OML. The consensus of the Board was to postpone discussion of the OML Complaint item listed under the Executive Session section of the Revised Agenda until the Board's June 20th meeting.

The minutes of the May 2nd and May 16th meetings were submitted for acceptance and approval. Motion made by Chairman McCarthy and seconded by Clerk Smith to accept and approve the minutes of the May 2nd meeting. Voted favorably 2-1-0. Member Bunker stated that she voted in opposition because she objected to the statement that the Board's meetings have, in fact, been recorded by either Member Bunker, Ms Denise Reyes, or most recently, Ms Cauley, for almost a year now. Member Bunker also stated that she objected to the statement that she had asked to address the status of the Principal Assessor's fringe benefits, stating she didn't inquire about the Principal Assessor's fringe benefits. Acceptance and approval of the May 16th minutes were postponed until the Board's June 20th meeting.

The Principal Assessor made the following announcements to the Board:

- The Board is in receipt of an email from the Department of Revenue (DOR) notifying all communities that its Bureau of Local Assessment (BLA) has completed the 2018 proposed Equalized Valuation (EQV) Program, representing the full and fair cash value of all property for each municipality as of January 1, 2018. The resulting final figures appear on the Form LA-19, 2018 Equalization Study, which can be accessed via the DOR' Gateway website under <https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/DLSPublic/LA19>;

- The Board is in receipt of a Memorandum from the town administrator, dated May 17th which included a copy of an executed Declination to Exercise First Refusal Option to Purchase Land under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 61A Section 14, originally signed by the Board of Selectmen at their May 16, 2018 Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Planning Board's meeting of May 2nd.

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 Board reviewed and signed monthly Property Tax warrants

The Board approved vacation requests of Donna Cotter and Tami Houde as submitted.

Member Bunker inquired into the status of the Board's open session and executive session minutes that have not yet been accepted or approved by the Board. Principal Assessor Donahue explained that he submitted draft copies of minutes to the Board several weeks/months ago and has not received any follow-up input. Mr. Donahue also explained that he and the Chairman have periodically reviewed draft versions of Executive Session minutes to determine if and when any such minutes can be accepted, approved and released by the Board and that he and the chairman will continue to do so.

Chairman McCarthy made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss Applications for Abatement (under Purpose 7) and Pending Appellate Tax Board Hearings (under Purposes 3 and 7), and not to reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Clerk Smith. A roll call was taken as follows: Chairman McCarthy = affirmative, Clerk Smith = affirmative. Member Bunker = affirmative. The Board entered Executive Session at approximately 6:21 PM. The Board adjourned Executive Session at approximately 6:40 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Smith, Clerk