

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 6:00 PM. Present were Chairman McCarthy, Clerk Smith, Member Bunker and Principal Assessor Donahue. Selectmen Anthony Kinahan, Lowell Smith, Daniel & Denise Reyes, Paul DeCosta, Mark McCloud, Deborah Cauley, Tami Houde and Mallory Aronstein were in attendance.

At the beginning of the meeting Ms. Reyes informed the Chairman of her intention to record the meeting. The Chairman announced the meeting was being recorded to all in attendance.

Also at the beginning of the meeting, Clerk Smith requested that her Public Records Request (and subsequent response) be added to the October 18th Agenda. Member Smith also requested that town counsel attend the meeting in order to advise the Board on the matter. Chairman McCarthy instructed the Principal Assessor to place the item on the Board's October 18th meeting notice and to research the matter in the meantime.

The Board of Assessors reviewed the mail folder, which included an announcement of the Worcester County Assessors Association meeting on 11/01/17, a copy of the West Bridgewater Planning Board's Meeting Schedule for 2017-2018, and a copy of the West Bridgewater Planning Board's Minutes of its 09/06/17 Meeting.

Chairman McCarthy made a motion to accept and approve the open session minutes of 07/19/17, 09/06/17 and 09/20/17. The motion was seconded by Clerk Smith. Member Bunker requested more time to review the minutes before putting the motion to a vote. The Board continued with other business in order to provide Member Bunker additional time to review the minutes.

The Board reviewed and signed warrants in the amounts of \$25.15 (mileage) and \$235.33 (training and mileage) respectively.

The Board reviewed and signed the List of Motor Vehicle and Boat Excise Abatements for the month of September in the aggregate amount of \$5,817.46.

The Board renewed an Agricultural/Horticultural Land Tax Lien.

The Principal Assessor informed the Board that he will continue to investigate the status of a Chapter Land Right of First Refusal Request before presenting it to the Board for disposition.

The Assistant Town Administrator, Mallory Aronstein, introduced Mrs. Tami Houde as the Assistant Town Administrator's and the Principal Assessor's collaborative choice to fill the Board's Principal Secretary position. While Mrs. Houde was being introduced to the Board, Clerk Smith spontaneously realized they might be distant relatives. After determining Mrs. Houde and Clerk Smith were, in fact, related to one another, Ms. Aronstein stated for the record that she and the Principal Assessor were unaware of any relationship, familial or otherwise, throughout the entire application and appointment

process. Chairman McCarthy made a motion to accept the Assistant Town Administrator's and Principal Assessor's recommendation to hire Mrs. Houde as the Board's Principal Secretary at the Step 4 rate of \$22.57 per hour. The motion was seconded by Member Bunker. Motion approved 2-0-1 (Clerk Smith abstaining).


The Board continued its discussion on the motion to approve the minutes of 07/19/17, 06/09/17 and 09/20/17. Member Bunker stated she would approve the minutes of 07/19/17 with her notes attached. Principal Assessor Donahue explained that he attached the notes to provide complete information for the Board's consideration, not as a supplement to the minutes. The Principal Assessor further explained that he reviewed Member Bunker's notes in an attempt to revise the minutes to make them more acceptable to Member Bunker's concerns, but concluded they appeared to be consistent with the previously submitted version of the minutes. Member Bunker disagreed, but did not offer a motion to revise the minutes. Chairman McCarthy reiterated his original motion to accept the minutes of 07/19/17, 09/06/17 and 09/20/17 as presented. Motion approved 2-1-0 (Member Bunker in the negative).

Member Bunker inquired if the Principal Assessor was planning to present a proposed Public Participation Policy that evening. The Principal Assessor responded in the negative.

Clerk Smith made a motion for the Board to enter into Executive Session, under Purpose 7, to discuss Applications for Abatement and pending Appellate Tax Board (ATB) cases, and not to reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded and a roll call was taken as follows: Chairman McCarthy = affirmative, Clerk Smith = affirmative, Member Bunker = affirmative. The Board then entered Executive Session at 6:27 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl A. Smith, Clerk

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
17 NOV 13 AM 8:57
FILE NO. _____
WEST BRIDGEWATER, MA