



Town of Burlington
29 Center Street
Burlington, MA 01803

For Town Clerks Use:
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2010 AUG 31 PM 1:14

TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30 A, c. §18-25)

DEPT./BOARD: Assessors

DATE: September 16, 2010

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Assessors Office

AGENDA

AGENDA TOPICS

Citizen Time

AGENDA # 1

Voucher procedures (signatures)

AGENDA # 2

Website Photos for Board of Assessors

Vouchers

Acceptance of previous minutes: May 27, 2010

Town Appraiser Report:

Old Business:

New Business:

Next Meeting September 30, 2010

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES, September 16, 2010 THURSDAY-6:00 p.m.
ASSESSORS OFFICE, TOWN HALL

RECEIVED

Paul Sheehan, Chairman –Present
Michael Crocker, Vice Chairman –Absent
Catherine O’Neil, Secretary – Present
James Doherty, Appraiser/Asst Assessor – Present
Marcia Nonni, Principal Clerk– Recording Secretary-Present

2010 OCT 27 AM 9:15
TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

Paul Sheehan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

No citizens were present.

Catherine O’Neil made a motion to accept the minutes for May 27, 2010. Paul Sheehan seconded it. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted into the record.

AGENDA #1

Due to time constraints between the times the payroll comes out and the date that the vouchers are due in the Accounting Office, and when the Board of Assessors comes in to the office to sign, it was determined that the new Assistant Assessor, Jim Doherty will sign the weekly vouchers and payroll. Previously, Mr. Doherty consulted with Paul Sagarino, Town Accountant as to the legality of having the Department Head signature only. The Board of Assessors will receive a monthly summary of expenditures. Mr. Sagarino supports this new process.

AGENDA #2

The Board of Assessors decided not to have their photo on the webpage. The Webmaster will update the photo of the Assessors Office staff instead.

Town Appraiser Report:

Mr. Doherty advised the Board that Town Meeting will be starting on September 27, 2010 and that two of the warrants would directly impact the exemptions to the residents were on Town Meeting agenda. Jim Doherty reminded the Board of Assessors that the Warrant Articles that the Board of Assessors had previously signed in August, so it may be placed on the September warrant, is a request to Town Meeting to allow qualified exemption applicants to continue to receive the maximum amount of money for the exemption they qualify for (Chapter 73 of Acts 1986). The second request signed from the Board of Assessors to Town Meeting will allow a change the qualifications for senior exemptions by dropping the qualifying age to 65 and increasing the income and asset requirements (Chapter 184 Section 51 of Acts 2002). Both exemptions are required to be addressed by an annual vote of Town Meeting.

James Doherty updated the Board about the GIS system. Up to this point, Tom Hayes, who is the Town Engineer, was in charge of the GIS updates on the Assessors maps. Mr. Doherty told the Board that he had three different vendors submit proposals to take over integrating the map changes into the GIS system. Long time cartographer for the Town and one time Town Engineer, Alan Nelson, declined to submit a bid, but may be consulted for help in researching any property information that might be needed.

September 16, 2010 Meeting cont:

James Doherty discussed with the Board of Assessors about the upcoming Appellate Tax Board (ATB) cases. Mr. Doherty advised the Board that many of the Nordblom properties that have filed with ATB had failed to give an opinion of value on the properties. Mr. Doherty has been visiting the various sites over the last several months and feels that the Town has put a fair value on the properties. As far as the Telephone & Telegraph communication business are concerned, Mr. Doherty gave a short discussion on the on going ATB cases.

Mr. Doherty reminded the Board on how the tax rate is arrived at.

New Business:

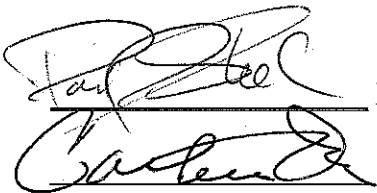
Catherine O'Neil asked that a statement regarding the former Assistant Assessor/Town Appraiser be entered into the minutes. The statement is as follows:

"I want to take this time to truly congratulate Russ Washburn on his recent retirement and wish him all the best. In addition, I would like to apologize to Russ for not having the opportunity to publically wish him the best at his recent retirement party held at the town hall. Unfortunately, I was never made aware of the celebration."

Catherine O'Neil formally opposed the cancellation of the monthly meetings. Ms. O'Neil continued that she had researched and found that there was a larger meeting room in the Town Hall Annex basement that was available for future Assessors meetings, if needed.

Ms. O'Neil expressed concern about the impact of the new Open Meeting Laws as it relates to the Assessors Office. The focus related to Executive Session. Paul Sheehan noted that much of the discussion at many of the meetings dealt with information that was not open to the public as deemed by the Department of Revenue (Chapter 39 Sec 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.)). After some discussion it was determined that Mr. Doherty would request that Kopelman & Paige, who are Town Counsel, provide an opinion based on the M.G.L. as to what is open to the public and when it is appropriate to call for an Executive Session.

Catherine O'Neil made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:09 pm. Paul Sheehan seconded it. All were in favor and the Motion passed. The Assessors Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.



BOARD OF ASSESSORS