

Fairhaven Board of Assessors

40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

508-979-4018

January 16, 2013

The Fairhaven Board of Assessors held a publicly posted meeting at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

Ronald Manzone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM announcing minutes were being taken by Jane Bettencourt.

In attendance were Ronald Manzone, Pamela Davis, Ellis Withington and Jane Bettencourt.

Pam Davis motioned to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting as presented. Ron Manzone seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was heard.

Members signed the hard copy of the FY13 Paraplegic Exemptions submitted by Jane Bettencourt through Gateway for authority to abate under Chapter 58, Section 8. Abatement was approved and processed on 12/19/12.

Pam Davis motioned to approve FY13 apportionment tax figures for 5 Washburn Avenue. This motion was seconded by Ron Manzone. A unanimous vote was heard.

Selectman Bob Espindola came before the Board to discuss future tax assessments of the wind turbine and the solar farm projects. Bob stated he was reaching out to find more information about taxation of renewable energy projects; no uniformity throughout the state. Pam Davis told him about the Department of Revenue's plans for seminars to be held throughout the state on this very topic. She stated this is all so new to all of us. Pam mentioned different scenarios that could apply because of the different types of agreements town have with developers. She also stated this challenge to value is very new to Assessors. Much discussion ensued regarding whether electricity was used 100% or went through the grid. Pam also mentioned the DOR has hired a utility consultant for their seminars. Ellis Withington offered the reported cost is not yet supported by income. Cost would be the higher value. Pam stated before this fiscal year ends the Board of Assessors should meet with Town Counsel to discuss a PILOT agreement for these projects. Counsel should come up with the verbiage and then the Assessors and Town Counsel should meet with Board of Selectmen for presentation of such.

Board members reviewed Exemption applications and approved/denied as follows:

Approved 3 Clause 22 – Disabled Veterans
Approved 1 Clause 17D

Approved 1 Clause 22E

Denied 1 Clause 37A – taxpayer was granted same exemption in another town

Denied 1 Clause 17D – property was conveyed prior to July 1

Board members reviewed and signed all month end reports for real estate exemptions, real estate, motor vehicle and boat abatements processed through December and January.

Board members read and discussed John Roderiques' email to Jane questioning the Overlay account figures. The Board instructed Jane to contact DLS LAW for legal opinion regarding who is responsible for the Overlay Account.

Board members reviewed available funds to transfer from Overlay to Surplus. After considering potential liabilities in each Fiscal Year they agreed to transfer \$50,585.53. Jane was instructed to inform the Board of Selectmen and the Town Accountant.

Board members agreed with \$327,515 as a good figure for the Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions (Overlay) for the FY14 Re-Cap. Jane was instructed to inform Jeffrey Osuch, Executive Secretary and Anne Carreiro, Town Accountant if this figure changes they were to be notified.

Jane told the Board Steven Sullivan telephoned to introduce himself as our DOR Field Advisor for FY14 Triennial Certification. Steve will be visiting Fairhaven in the very near future to go over recommendations and start the plan for this procedure to have values and new growth certified timely. Jane was instructed to notify Wayne Peterson at Patriot Properties about this upcoming visit and to send him a copy of the FY14 Recommendations.

Board members reviewed Jane's completion of our FY14 Budget and approved figures to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen by the deadline of January 22, 2013.

Each member was handed a copy of the Town of Fairhaven's Financial Management Review dated November 2012 conducted by the Technical Assistance Section of Division of Local Services for review.

Bill Payable ~ Jane's mileage for inspections conducted in the amount of \$139.28 was approved for payment.

At 8:15 PM, Pam Davis motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate and personal property abatement applications per the attached lists. This motion was seconded by Ellis Withington. A unanimous vote was heard. Roll call vote: Three to zero in favor.

At 9:10 PM, Pam Davis motioned to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session. Ellis Withington seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was heard. Roll call vote: Three to zero in favor.

Pam Davis motioned to abate real estate application #1, 3, 4, 5 and 6; deny real estate application #2, 9, 11 and 12; and table real estate application # 7, 8 and 10 as discussed per attached list. This motion was seconded by Ellis Withington. A unanimous vote was heard.

Ellis Withington motioned to abate personal property application #2 and 3; table personal property application #1 and deny personal property application #4 as discussed per attached list. This motion was seconded by Pam Davis. A unanimous vote was heard.

At 9:20 PM, Pam Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ellis Withington. A unanimous vote was heard.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane E. Bettencourt
Administrative Assistant
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Minutes approved on _____ February 19, 2013 _____ by:
