

Board of Assessors Minutes of Meeting of August 4, 2017

Present: Bruce Firger
John Katz
Christopher Lamarre, Principal Assessor

1. Meeting called to order by Chris Lamarre at 10:40 AM.
2. Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:
December 21, 2016
February 15, 2017
April 19, 2017
3. Old Business:
 - a. Cyclical Inspection program will be on a brief hiatus until early fall due to Mayflower Valuation losing a key employee who had been performing the inspections in Great Barrington over the past two years.
4. New Business:
 - a. Assessor Lamarre briefed the Board on the results of the FY 2018 Interim Revaluation as it relates to assessed values by class, proposed tax levy, tax rate, excess levy capacity, new growth and median values for single family homes and commercial properties. Assessor Lamarre also led a discussion on the upcoming Classification Hearing to be held on Monday August 14, 2017 at 7:15 PM. Discussed was the Board's preference for recommending to the Selectboard that a single tax rate be used for FY 2018 and that no special exemptions be granted to any particular class of property that would cause a shift in the tax levy.
 - b. ATB Cases: Assessor Lamarre briefed the Board on the three pending FY 2017 ATB cases. One case had been docketed to be heard by the ATB in June of 2017 however, the property owner's attorney sought, and was granted, a continuance with the hope of negotiating a settlement. The two remaining cases have yet to be scheduled by the ATB for a hearing date.
 - c. An abatement application for a motor vehicle was presented to the Board and was denied based on the fact the vehicle is owned in the name of the applicant's business which is located in Housatonic. The applicant sought the abatement because the vehicle in question is purportedly driven to a neighboring community on a nightly basis by an employee. The applicant therefore perceives the legal place of garaging as the community where the employee lives. However, under M.G.L. a vehicle owned and operated by a commercial entity owes the excise tax to the community in which the business is located. For that reason, the Board voted unanimously to deny the application.

Having no further business and without any questions from citizens, a motion by Assessor Firger, seconded by Assessor Katz, and with all in favor, the Board voted to adjourn at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Lamarre, MAA
Principal Assessor