

Approved 11/24/15

**Board of Assessors
Executive Session
Monday September 29, 2014**

Attendance: Chair S. Rufo, J. Brodie, D. Hill, Z. Ventress, M. Upton

Also Present: Director E. Brideau, Administrative Assessor J. Marchant

S. Rufo explained that 400 Boston Post Rd filed at the ATB for FY'14.

S. Rufo had asked Director Brideau to get in touch with Jim Johnston to see if he is available and how much it would cost to retain him for handling the 400 Boston Post Rd case. She asked the board for their input and discussion on the matter. The parcels included in the case are: 23-052, 23-052C, 23-052E.

J. Brodie asked how long before this case is scheduled, considering the case is so complex.

Director Brideau believes it will be before winter. ATB cases are moving faster than they used to. Also, the ATB looks at the value of the property in question and they know towns may owe interest so they move it forward. She explained that when the taxes are paid and an abatement is due, the town has to pay the money back to the property owner with interest.

Jim Johnston's estimate is \$20,000-\$25,000 to prepare an appraisal and appear as a witness in the case.

Director Brideau has that amount in her FY15 litigation budget.

Z. Ventress asked if Jim Johnston thinks the town has a solid case? Yes. Director Brideau discussed recent cases that Jim Johnston has won.

The board discussed who will represent the town for counsel. S. Rufo will meet with the town administrator to discuss who will represent the assessors moving forward in the case.

D. Hill summarized: Jim Johnston is available for the job. He is willing to go forward and has his schedule clear for it.

Director Brideau stated that Mike Tarello would also represent the town in this case. Hiring him will fall under a separate contract. He charges an hourly rate to appear for the court date.

D. Hill moved to approve the hiring of Jim Johnston for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the purpose of doing the appraisal of 400 Boston Post Rd in preparation for the ATB court case. J. Brodie seconded. Roll call vote: M. Upton-yes, J. Brodie-yes, D. Hill-yes, Z. Ventress-yes, S. Rufo-yes. All in favor

D. Hill moved to hire M. Tarello for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for the purpose of supporting the documentation necessary for the ATB case with 400 Boston Post Rd. M. Upton seconded. Roll call vote: M. Upton-yes, J. Brodie-yes, D. Hill-yes, Z. Ventress-yes, S. Rufo-yes. All in favor

At 8:30pm M. Upton moved to come out of executive session. D. Hill seconded.

Roll call vote: M. Upton-yes, J. Brodie-yes, D. Hill-yes, Z. Ventress-yes, S. Rufo-yes. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Marchant