

BOA Executive Session Minutes

Monday June 6, 2016

Attendees: Chair S. Rufo, J. Brodie, Z. Ventress, D. Hill

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

Purpose: The session was called at 7:20pm by a roll call vote of the board to review and consider for approval and potential release the Executive Session minutes of May 2nd, 2016 relative to the discussion of strategy with respect to pending Appellate Tax Board cases for the telecommunication companies and for the Director to provide a status update and discuss strategy with respect to pending Appellate Tax Board cases for the Telecommunication companies.

Discussion:

The BOA reviewed the executive session minutes of May 2nd. **D. Hill moved to approve the executive session minutes of May 2nd, 2016 as submitted. J. Brodie seconded.** Vote: Z. Ventress- yes, D. Hill- yes, J. Brodie- yes, S. Rufo- yes.

Director Brideau updated the board regarding the Telecommunication cases with Verizon New England. At the hearing on May 4th, the Commissioner informed everyone that all Massachusetts communities are involved in the case- not just the 'lead towns' as it has been in the past. All towns will be docketed for ATB hearings. The next hearing is in November. At this time, Wayland can either take no action or be proactive and request discovery between now and September. If Wayland does ask for discovery, an expert will be needed to do the research whether that's Town Counsel or another expert.

Monetarily, other communities have experienced Verizon wanting their values to be 40% of their assessments. At that rate, Wayland's exposure for fiscal 2010 and 2011 is \$118,000 plus interest. J. Brodie pointed out that the town has a vested interest in the outcome because the money to pay the interest doesn't come from the overlay account- but has to come from somewhere.

The Commissioner has posted the FY17 values for centrally valued property. The MAAO has asked all the assessors to appeal those values. The appeal deadline is June 15th and requires a BOA vote. It will cost \$65 to hold Wayland's place for an appeal and Wayland can drop out if the board decides to do so later.

S. Rufo wondered if the state chairman of telecommunications is aware of this ongoing issue. The board discussed hosting a meeting with state representatives and neighboring communities to inform and discuss the issue.

Z. Ventress moved to file a petition under formal procedure at the ATB: Town of Wayland vs Verizon New England and the Commissioner of Revenue for fiscal 2017 to be filed by Town Counsel M. Lanza. D. Hill seconded. Roll Call vote: D. Hill- yes, J. Brodie- yes, Z. Ventress- yes, S. Rufo- yes

J. Brodie moved that the executive session minutes of May 2nd, 2016 not be released to the public at this time. Z. Ventress seconded. Vote: Z. Ventress- yes, D. Hill- yes, J. Brodie- yes, S. Rufo- yes.

S. Rufo moved to exit executive session at 8pm. J. Brodie seconded. Roll call vote: D. Hill- yes, J. Brodie- yes, Z. Ventress- yes, S. Rufo- yes

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Marchant