

Assessors Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016

The meeting was held on Wednesday April 20, 2016 and called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Donna Sarro.
Present: Donna Sarro (DS), Amy Shapiro (AS), Jennifer Morse (JM), George Stephan (GS)
Absent: Sandy Lilly (SL)

George Stephan was present at the meeting and introductions were made. George will be on the Annual Town Election ballot of the Board of Assessors position.

Minutes -

A motion was made by DS and seconded by AS to accept the meeting minutes of April 4, 2016. VOTE: DS-Aye, AS-Aye 2-0

Old Business

DS, SL and JM will all be attending the Franklin County Assessing Association Annual Dinner on April 28, 2016. JM noted that the president of the MAAO would be present as well as Neil McGaffey from MassGIS. The speaker for the event is Alison Wright from the Department of Conservation and Recreation talking about Forest Management Plans.

New Business

Farm Plate Excise - Exemption applications have gone out for the 2016 Section V, Farm Plate Excise taxes. JM explained that if the exemption forms are returned the bills can be voided. Unreturned forms require an abatement. JM will look into other local town votes that would eliminate the billing process for Title V.

Estimated Tax Rate - The estimated tax rate of \$16.90 with a \$14,000 deficit was reviewed.

Abutters Lists - *A motion was made by DS and seconded by AS if an abutters list needs to be certified within 48 hours the assistant can go ahead and certify the list and bring it to the next Board of Assessors meeting.*

VOTE: DS – Aye, AS- Aye 2-0. Every effort will be made to obtain to Board of Assessors signatures on certified abutters list. JM will contact the Zoning Board of Appeals with another reminder to request the information with the understanding that the Board of Assessors meet bi-monthly.

Meeting Schedule

May 5, 2016 - 9 a.m.

May 16, 2016 - 6 p.m.

TAP Enrollment Meeting

The following people joined the meeting to discuss the TAP enrollment plan. Interim Town Administrator: Kayce Warren, Department of Revenue Bob Bliss, Ryan Johnson, Matt Andre.

Introductions were made and Bob Bliss gave a brief overview of the TAP enrollment program. TAP is designed to help communities by creating a work plan to set the tax rate prior to the December rush. There is no penalty if the deadlines are not met. With input from the Board of Assessors and Ryan Johnson dates were put into the work plan. Looking at the work plan the only potential hold up would be a fall special town meeting postponing the classification hearing scheduled date of October 17, 2016. If the work plan is met the tax rate would be set by October 24, 2016. Ashfield is one of thirty two communities in Massachusetts participating in the TAP program. The program was brought to the attention of the assessor's office via the tax collector.

A motion was made by DS and seconded by AS to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Submitted:
Jennifer Morse – Assessors Clerk
April 25, 2016

Approved: 5/5/16 Vote: 2-0-1