

Minutes
Town of Montague Assessors' Department
December 7, 2009

Members Present: Paul Emery, Betty Waidlich
Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing
Meeting convened 3:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes of November 30, 2009- Motion made by Mr. Emery, second by Ms. Waidlich vote unanimous

SIGNATURES REQUIRED

- Time sheet for Ms. Miller, week ending December 4, 2009 signed by Mr. Emery
- Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Abatement Monthly Lists Levy 2009 month of Nov. 2009 - \$166.06
Motion made by Mr. Emery, second by Ms. Waidlich vote unanimous
- Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Abatement Monthly Lists Levy 2008 month of Nov. 2009 - \$56.25
Motion made by Mr. Emery, second by Ms. Waidlich vote unanimous
- Boat Excise Abatement Monthly Lists Levy 2009 month of Nov. 2009 - \$55.00
Motion made by Mr. Emery, second by Ms. Waidlich vote unanimous

UPDATES TO BOARD

- Tax Classification Discussion
 - The tax classification hearing is to be scheduled upon preliminary approval of values- Ms. Miller informed the board that Ms. Miner had indicated via email her agreement to this plan provided the other two board members were in agreement. After discussion regarding the dates of select board meetings Mr. Emery and Ms. Waidlich agreed that it would be best to hold the tax classification hearing after preliminary certification rather than wait for final certification of values.
 - Discussion regarding the previous years tax classification hearing in which Mr. Detmold questioned Ms. Miller as to the intent of the select board to reduce the shift over time. Ms. Miller informed the board that the town's residential class has a historic low of 55.62%. First Light had a value increase of nearly \$20 million which increased the CIP share of the tax levy by 2% before the shift. The Board of Assessors will recommend a 1.35% shift to the CIP classes. The recommended shift gives the residential class a 68.05% share of the tax levy and the commercial, industrial and personal property classes a 31.95% share.
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 - that the town's residential class has a historic low of 55.62%. The board will recommend a 1.35% shift to the commercial, industrial and personal property classes (CIP). First Light had a value increase of \$20 million which increased the percent of value to the CIP classes by 2% before the shift.
 - During the discussion regarding tax rates Ms. Waidlich stated that she wished there were more that could be done to help the small farmers. Ms. Miller offered to have her staff research the benefits and/or detriments of Chapter 61 Section 2A, Chapter 61A Section 4A and Chapter 61B Section 2A which redefine the Open Space class to include Chapter land.

Meeting Adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller
Director of Assessing

Minutes approved _____