

**Minutes**  
**Town of Montague Assessors' Department**  
1 Avenue A (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Turners Falls, MA  
July 30, 2012

Members Present: Paul Emery, Teresa Miner, Betty Waidlich

Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing

Others Present: Nancy Griswold and Linda Hodsdon Mayo both from Gill Assessors Office

Meeting convened 3:30 p.m.

- Ms. Nancy Griswold, Gill Assessor and Ms. Linda Hodsdon Mayo, Assessors' Assistant for Gill came to the meeting to thank Ms. Miller for her efforts with respect to the IFB for the FY2014 Hydro facilities appraisal. There was discussion regarding the wording of the IFB in regards to adding verbiage about the Northfield Mountain Project. Both Ms. Miller and Ms. Hodsdon Mayo will research the issue and make any necessary changes to the IFB.  
Ms. Griswold and Ms. Hodsdon Mayo left the meeting.
- Approved Minutes of July 16, 2012  
Motion to approve made by Ms. Waidlich, Second by Ms. Miner, vote unanimous
- SIGNATURES REQUIRED
- Time sheets for Ms. Miller, weeks ending 07/21/2012 and 07/28/2012 were signed by Mr. Emery
- Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Warrants to Collector
  - 2012 Commitment 4 - \$28,517.61
  - 2012 Commitment 4A- 349.69
  - 2012 Commitment 3DL - 600.00
  - 2011 Commitment 9A - 262.40
- Motion to approve made by Ms. Waidlich, Second by Ms. Miner, vote unanimous

**UPDATES TO BOARD**

- Ms. Miller previously emailed the board members copies of a letter to be sent from the MAAO Executive Board to the Attorney General requesting an Advisory Opinion regarding Abatement and Exemption Applications and the Open Meeting Law. Ms. Miller informed the board that most of the other members of the MAAO Executive Board stated their abatement and exemption application discussions were held in executive session. Ms. Miller and the board discussed the different purposes for which a meeting may be held in executive session and were in general agreement that none of the purposes specified in MGL Chapter 30A Section 21 were clearly intended to allow for convening to executive session to discuss abatement and/or exemption applications and that there was rarely anyone in attendance at assessors' meetings other than the board members and Ms. Miller. Mr. Emery and Ms. Waidlich thought it unnecessary to convene to executive session to discuss abatement and exemption applications unless there were other parties at the meeting. Ms. Miner thought bringing the question to town council may be warranted but since the other two did not the issue was dropped.
- Ms. Miller, having inspected the property at 98 West Mineral Road, parcel 18-0-05 suggested a reduction in value of \$11,500 was warranted based on corrections to the property record card. The property owners have filed a Petition under Formal Procedure with the Appellate Tax Board and in order for the Assessors to grant an abatement at this time it must be in final settlement of the application for abatement. Therefore Ms. Miller will send a letter indicating the corrections found during the inspection and offer a final settlement of the case. The corrections will be made to the property record card for FY2013 regardless of the property owners' response to her letter offering a settlement of the FY2012 ATB case

Meeting Adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller

Director of Assessing

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_