

Minutes
Town of Montague Assessors' Department
1 Avenue A (2nd Floor), Turners Falls, MA
February 6, 2014

Members Present: Teresa Miner and Betty Waidlich
Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing
Meeting convened 3:30 p.m.

Absent: Paul Emery

- Approved Minutes of 12/16/2013, Tax Classification Hearing 12/18/2013 continued to 12/23/2013
Motion to approve made by Ms. Miner, Second by Ms. Waidlich Vote unanimous

SIGNATURES REQUIRED

- Time sheets for Ms. Miller, weeks ending 01/18/2014, 01/25/2014, 2/1/2014 and 2/8/2014 signed by Ms. Waidlich
- Warrant to Collector Revised Assessment
 - Town - \$80.06
 - MCFD - \$6.56Motion to approve made by Ms. Waidlich, Second by Ms. Miner, Vote unanimous
- Warrant to Collector Omitted Real Estate Property TFFD - \$1,054.52
Motion to approve made by Ms. Miner, Second by Ms. Waidlich Vote unanimous
- Real Estate and Personal Property Monthly Lists of Abatements and Exemptions
 - **Rescind votes of 01/13/2014**
 - Town Personal Exemptions Total Off Bills - \$50,014.41
 - Town RE abated Parcel owned by town - \$1,707.53
 - Town PP Low Value Billed in Error - \$79.77
 - TFFD Personal Exemptions Total Off Bills - \$684.40
 - TFFD RE abated Parcel owned by town - \$303.05
 - TFFD PP Low Value Billed in Error - \$9.34

Motion to rescind the vote of January 13, 2014 of the Monthly List of Abatements and Exemptions of Real Estate and Personal Property for the month of January, made by Ms. Miner, Second by Ms. Waidlich Vote unanimous

- Revised Real Estate and Personal Property Monthly List of Abatements and Exemptions
 - Town Personal Exemptions Total Off Bills - \$50,014.41
 - Town PP Low Value Billed in Error - \$79.77
 - TFFD Personal Exemptions Total Off Bills - \$684.40
 - TFFD PP Low Value Billed in Error - \$9.34

Motion to approve the Revised Monthly List of Abatements and Exemptions of Real Estate and Personal Property FY2014 for the month of January made by Ms. Waidlich, Second by Ms. Miner, Vote unanimous

- Motor vehicle and Trailer Excise Warrants to Collector
 - 2014 Commitment #1 - \$542,871.25
 - 2013 Commitment #7 - \$2,937.99

Motion to approve made by Ms. Miner, Second by Ms. Waidlich, Vote unanimous.

- Signoff sheet indicating receipt of Open Meeting Law Guidelines signed by Ms. Miner
- 3:50 p.m. Motion made by Ms. Waidlich, to convene in Executive Session under Purpose 7 “to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general law,” to comply with Chapter 59 Section 60 to discuss Personal Exemptions and Real Estate Abatements Second by Ms. Miner, Vote Unanimous.

- 4:05 p.m. Motion made by Ms. Waidlich to return to open session, Second by Ms. Miner, Vote unanimous.

UPDATES TO BOARD

- Ms. Miller provided the board with the latest Boston Globe and Wall Street Journal articles regarding the NEFF vs. Hawley Assessors case.
- Ms. Miller informed the board that she has been asked to attend a REALTOR Assoc. of Pioneer Valley meeting to discuss the practice of going to smoke detector inspections with the fire department. They are concerned the practice puts the realtor in an awkward situation as the only person to allow access to the home should be the owner. Ms. Miller will take the opportunity to explain that the fire department notifies the realtor that someone from the assessors' office will be at the inspection in order that the realtor has the opportunity to inform the owner of the assessors presence. This is an excellent opportunity for Ms. Miller to explain to a large group the necessity of these inspections at the time of sale. The meeting date and time conflict with the Green Homes seminar and Ms. Miller has informed Mr. Scranton of the REALTOR Assoc. of Pioneer Valley of the conflict.

Meeting Adjourned 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller
Director of Assessing

Minutes approved _____