

Minutes

Town of Montague Assessors' Department

1 Avenue A (2nd Floor), Turners Falls, MA

March 17, 2014

Members Present: Paul Emery, Teresa Miner, Betty Waidlich

Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing

Meeting convened 3:30 p.m.

- Approved Minutes of March 10, 2014

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

SIGNATURES REQUIRED

- Time sheet for Ms. Miller, week ending 03/15/2014 signed by Mr. Emery
- Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Commitment to the Tax Collector

- #2 - \$55,118.29

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

- Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise February Monthly List of Abatements
 - Levy 2014 - \$2,328.23
 - Levy 2013 - \$140.73

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

- Real Estate February Monthly List of Abatements and Exemptions
 - Town - \$1,676.48
 - TFFD - \$297.54

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

- At 3:45 Motion made by Mr. Emery Chair, 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
The board will return to open session
- 4:00 p.m. Motion to return to open Session made by Ms. Miner, second by Ms. Waidlich, Vote unanimous

UPDATES TO BOARD

- Ms. Miller asked the board members if they had any recollection of the Board of Selectmen previously voting to reject the provisions of Chapter 59 Section 2D of the Acts of 1989 (Supplemental Assessment of New Construction) at some point prior to her date of hire. This statute is unusual in that it is not a local option but must be rejected locally with written notice sent to Department of Revenue. When she first started with the town she asked Mr. McIntosh if the town had voted to reject it, because otherwise we would be required to send supplemental tax bills for new construction which increased the assessed value more than 50% and received a certificate of occupancy, he informed her that the town had voted to reject it. She explained that while preparing for a presentation at the MAAO Spring Conference she researched how many communities had rejected the provision of Chapter 59 Section 2D and discovered that the DOR had no record of Montague having rejected it. Ms. Miller asked the board if they had any memory of such a vote. She further explained that this should not be confused with the acceptance by Town Meeting of the provisions of Chapter 653 Section 40 of the Acts of 1989 which allows for assessment of new construction up to June 30th for the next fiscal year. Section 2D is only a Selectboard vote and it does not require Town Meeting vote. When asked neither the Town Administrator nor the Tax Collector had any recollection of such a vote. The board members each stated that they too had no memory of such a vote. Ms. Miller will request this topic be added to the Selectman's agenda.

Meeting Adjourned 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing

Minutes approved _____