

Minutes
Town of Montague Assessors' Department
1 Avenue A (2nd Floor), Turners Falls, MA
September 29, 2014

Members Present: Paul Emery, Teresa Miner, Betty Waidlich
Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing
Meeting convened 3:40 p.m.

- Approved Minutes of September 22, 2014
Motion to approve made by Ms. Waidlich, Second by Ms. Miner, Vote unanimous

SIGNATURES REQUIRED

- Time sheet for Ms. Miller, week ending September 27, 2014 signed by Mr. Emery
- Motor Vehicle and Trailer Excise Warrant to Collector
 - Commitment #5A - \$340.00Motion to approve made by Ms. Miner, Second by Ms. Waidlich, Vote unanimous
- Tax Classification Hearing Preparation
 - Ms. Miller provided the Board of Assessors with the various scenarios which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen and the Prudential Committee's of the three districts at the Tax Classification hearings on October 6, 2014. There was discussion regarding the effect of the different shift percentages and it was determined that the board would recommend a .866354 residential factor for the town, a .862971 factor for the Turners Falls Fire District and a factor of 1 for the Montague Center Fire and Montague Lighting Districts.
 - Ms. Miller will explain to the Select Board and the TFFD Prudential Committee that there has been no settlement with FirstLight. They filed an abatement in FY2014 which was ultimately denied as no agreement value could be reached. The assessed valuation in FY2015 remains at the appraised value. FirstLight will undoubtedly dispute both the FY2014 and FY2015 valuations. An Appellate Tax Board case is imminent. As stated last year, we will hardily defend our valuation but, should they prevail in appellate court, the tax rate could go up significantly next year.

Meeting Adjourned 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller
Director of Assessing

Minutes approved _____