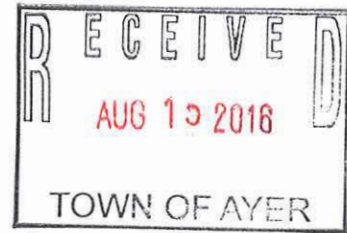


BOARD OF ASSESSORS

July 13, 2016

Minutes of Assessors Meeting



The meeting was called to order at 2:06pm. Chairman Callahan, Clerk Cornellier, Member Bresnahan, Assessing Administrator Thomas Hogan and Assessing Department Assistant Jacquelyn Guthrie were present.

The Board of Assessors read the agenda for July 13, 2016. A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0 to accept the agenda as written.

The Board of Assessors read the minutes of June 16, 2016. A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0 to accept the minutes as written.

The Assessing Administrator reviewed the Assessing Department Assistant's performance evaluation with the Board.

The Board of Assessors completed the Assessing Administrator's performance evaluation.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0 to accept the evaluations as written.

The Assessing Administrator and the Board of Assessors discussed the status of the Verizon New England Appellate Tax Board (ATB) cases. Mr. Hogan explained that though the Department of Revenue (DOR) will be defending the Verizon valuations at the ATB, a group of communities were asking additional municipalities to share in the cost of attorney fees, expert testimony and appraisal reports as part of an effort to secure a more favorable outcome at the ATB. Mr. Hogan explained that because Ayer is party to this appeal for only FY2010-FY2011 and that a formula for the equitable apportionment of each community's share of the total cost of the appeal has not been presented, his recommendation to the Board of Assessors is to pass on joining the community financed appeal and allow the DOR to proceed with their defense of the valuations. A motion to accept the Assessing Administrator's recommendation was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Board of Assessors was reminded that Income and Expense Second Request letters will be mailed on July 15, 2016.

At 3:00pm in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A Section 21A Exemption no. 3 (Pending Litigation), Chairman Callahan called for a vote to go into Executive Session with Open Session to reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session. A Motion was seconded by Ed Cornellier, Vote: Chairman Callahan: Aye; Clerk Cornellier; Aye, Member Bresnahan; Aye. Motion passes by a vote of 3-0.

At 3:29pm, the Board reconvened into Open Session.

The June 2016 Assessing Department Monthly Report was reviewed by the Board of Assessors. A motion to approve the report as amended was made, seconded and approved by a 3-0 vote.

The Board of Assessors reviewed the June 2016 Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Report. There were 24 abatements posted totaling \$3,107.29. A motion was made to accept and sign the report, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0.

Old Business:

There were no old business topics brought up for discussion.

New Business:

The Board of Assessors reviewed a memo from the Town Accountant seeking Board approval of the FY2017 pay rates for both the Assessing Administrator and Assessing Department Assistant. A motion to accept the FY2017 pay rates was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Board of Assessors reviewed a letter from National Grid regarding FY2017 Growth and CWIP valuation for utility assets located in Ayer.

Assessor Hogan recommended that the Board motion to reduce the preliminary tax on parcel 30-24-60, 32 Longview Circle due to a change in the estimated valuation on this property. A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0 to reduce the preliminary tax bill by \$1,281.60.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2016 at 2:00pm.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0 to adjourn at 3:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward Cullen", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk

jag