

SHELBURNE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p. m. by Alan Coutinho

Board Members Present: Alan Coutinho, James Richardson, Jennifer Morse - Assistant Assessor

Minutes

Minutes of March 18, 2019¹ and March 27, 2019² were reviewed and approved.

Appointment

Matt Marchese- Board of Selectmen joined the meeting to discuss the stipend reductions for FY2020. Alan Coutinho started the conversation by what prompted the reduction in stipends. Matt explained that the BOS had looked at all boards including those who do not receive stipends. They looked at the number of meeting, length of meetings, workloads and at recently hired contracted services. Matt stated that Alan had been asked during the budget hearings about the workload of the assessors, which there is record of. Discussion on the workload of the board members since the town has contracted with Patriot Properties and invested in technology and software. Alan Coutinho spoke of the additional tax revenue, overall running of the office, questions and conversation with taxpayers outside of meetings and that the FRCOG wage/salary study should not be looked at for comparison. Matt stated that the board looked at towns of like size and took into consideration their contracted services. Jim Richardson asked if the BOS had looked into the number of towns that reduced stipends when they hired contracted services. Jim also stated that being a board member is a big job and that the town values are stable because of the board and that they are constantly improving. He said that he often has to have difficult conversation with taxpayers outside of meetings and it takes years of commitment and knowledge to be on the board. Jim said that the stipend is incentive to sit in the chair and that the boards spend time outside of meetings reading emails and minutes.

Alan asked that the Board of Selectmen wait until the DOR has completed the review of the office and if not presented a compromise to reduce the stipends to \$2100 – Chair and \$1600 members. Matt will bring the information back to the BOS for discussion.

Signatures

Motor Vehicle Commitment #2 – Warrant to the Collector³

Monthly List- Shelburne Fire District – Real Estate/Personal Property– March 2019 – Levy 2019⁴

Monthly List – Town – Real Estate/Personal Property – March 2019 – Levy 2019⁵

Monthly List – Motor Vehicle – March 2019 – Levy 2019⁶

Abatements/Exemptions

*Abatement & Exemption applications are not open for public inspection (GL Chapter 59, Section 60)

A surviving spouse exemption (17D) was granted in the amount of \$175.00(Town) and \$\$175(District)

A real estate abatement was granted in the amount of \$178.44(Town) and \$10.29(District) Map 4, Lot 2 – Reason: overvalued

A personal property abatement was granted in the amount of \$611.43 (Town) and \$35.27 (District) - Reason: Business closed

A real estate abatement was granted in the amount of \$2469.56 (Town) and \$139.35(District) Map 11, Lot 22 Reason: Police Station – exempt

A personal property exemption was granted in the amount of \$6.24 (District) – Reason: clerical error

A real estate abatement was denied in for Map 42, Lot 6. Reason: After inspection the property was deemed To be valued accordingly and land values were deemed consistent with neighborhood 1.

A real estate abatement was granted in the amount of \$815.91(Town) and \$47.06(District) – Map 24, Lot 9
Reason: overvalued

An abatement was granted in the amount of \$27.35(Town) and \$1.75(District) – Map 10, Lot 11
Reason: overvalued bathrooms, the land value portion of the request was deemed denied as land values were deemed consistent with other properties in the neighborhood.

Abatements are almost complete with one inspection scheduled for Friday April 19th and one property owner who has not returned the call to set up an appointment. There is also one land value abatement that will be acted on at the next meeting.

Assistant Assessors Updates

FCAA Annual Meeting- Alan and Jim will both be attending the annual meeting on May 23, 2019. Jenn will RSVP, if the members cannot make the meeting they will reimburse the \$40 per person cost to the town. The speaker is TBD.

FCAA Roundtable – April 24th at 10 a.m. – Turners Falls - Jenn will be attending on behalf of Shelburne.

Items not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Next Meeting: April 22, 2019

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer Morse
Assistant Assessor
April 10, 2019

Document List

1. Minutes of March 18, 2019
2. Minutes of March 27, 2019
3. Motor Vehicle Commitment #2, Warrant to Collector
4. Monthly List – Shelburne Fire District March 2019
5. Monthly List – Town March 2019
6. Monthly List – Motor Vehicle – March 2019

Approved: 4/22/19