

SHELBURNE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday February 12, 2020 at 4:06 p.m. by Alan Coutinho. The meeting was held in the Board of Assessors Office.

Present: Alan, Coutinho, James Richardson, Shawn Allen, Jennifer Morse

Minutes

Minutes of January 22, 2020 were reviewed and approved by signature of Alan and Shawn. Jim did not sign the minutes.

Signatures – Signed by all members present unless otherwise noted

Monthly List – Real Estate/Personal Property – January 2020 – Town of Shelburne

Monthly List – Real Estate/Personal Property – January 2020 – Shelburne Fire District

Monthly List – Motor Vehicle – January 2020 – Levy 2018

Monthly List – Motor Vehicle – January 2020 – Levy 2019

Chapter 61A Tax Lien - J. Rae – Not signed by Chair Alan Coutinho he will sign the document in the presence of a notary.

Shelburne Fire District

Shawn asked that the Assistant Assessor set up a meeting with the Shelburne Fire District regarding the accounting and tax rate setting as soon as possible.

Motor Vehicle Commit #8 -2019 and Commit #1- 2020

The Assistant Assessor shared that there are now 8 commitments from the RMV in a given year. That the Title V plates are mixed in with the regular commitments as well. She shared that approximately 400 bills are being voided from Commitment #1 and send via the Atlas system to the correct garaging town. The new process is time consuming. Alan asked that time be tracked so it can be brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen.

Update from Other Boards/Committees

An email regarding the Shelburne Policy for Documenting, Releasing and Honoring Requests for Meeting Minutes was shared.

Exemptions/Abatements

The Assistant Assessor shared that the Town had received two personal property abatement application and one residential abatement application. The Board will review the abatement applications again at the next meeting.

Exemption 18-2020 was granted by Clause 41C (senior) in the amount of \$500 (Town) and \$142.33(District) by signature of all members present.

Exemption 19-2020 was granted by Clause 17D (surviving spouse) in the amount of \$175 (Town) and \$175 (District) by signature of all members present.

*Abatement and Exemption Applications are not open to public inspection (General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5)

Forest Management Plans/ Chapter Land

Wholey - Member Jim Richardson questioned if land is gifted (by deed) to a family member if rollback is assessed. The Assistant Assessor stated that when land is sold and the use is changed a rollback is assessed according to 61A laws. The Assistant Assessor will follow-up on the law and will forward it to all members.

Richardson – Forest Management Plan – Amendments – Hard copies of the amended plans were received by the office today 2/12/2020. The Assistant Assessor stated that DCR will contact the office when the plans have been received and again certified by DCR. The board will then sign off on the certificates. Member Shawn Allen expressed his frustration that the plans had not been submitted in a timely fashion. He stated that the Assessors are held to a higher standard and it is the board's responsibility to ensure that all laws are being followed. He shared that this oversight will not happen again as long as he is on the board.

Assistant Assessor Updates

February 13, 2020 - Franklin County Assessors Association Executive Board Meeting – 11:30 a.m.

February 25, 2020 – FCAA Roundtable in Charlemont. The Assistant Assessor and Member Shawn Allen will both attend.

Cadran/Ormond Property Lines - The Assistant Assessor shared that she had met with Mr. Cadran regarding his property lines and his abutter's property lines. There is question in regards to small sliver of land between the abutters' property pins and Tower road. The Board of Selectmen, Highway Super, Police and Assessors Office with advice of town council are working to resolve the question if possible. The Assistant Assessor did share with Mr. Cadran that Assessors maps are for assessing purposes and the dispute may end in land court. The maps of the abutter's property were surveyed and implemented into the 1/1/2020 tax maps.

Next Meeting – February 26, 2020 at 4 p.m.

Jim will be unable to attend

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m. Vote 3-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer Morse

Assistant Assessor

February 13, 2020

Document List

- Agenda 2/12/2020
- Minutes of January 22, 2020
- Monthly List – January – Town
- Monthly List – January – District
- Monthly List – Motor Vehicle – January – Levy 2018
- Monthly List – Motor Vehicle – January Levy 2019
- Motor Vehicle Commit #1-2020
- Motor Vehicle Commit #8- 2019
- Shelburne Policy for Meeting Minutes
- FCAA Roundtable Flyer