**SHELBURNE BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

 **Meeting Minutes**

**January 20, 2022**

The meeting was called to order on Thursday January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. by Alan Coutinho. The meeting was held at the Shelburne Fire Station

Present: Joel Dwight, Alan Coutinho, Jim Richardson, Paula Morse

Townsperson Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson from 119 Bridge St. attended the in-person meeting, noting his concern for the rise in the assessment of his property. Mr. Johnson stated that his property went up 16.7% and while he does not mind paying his share of property taxes in Shelburne, he is concerned that the rise in taxes will cause Community Preservation Act (CPA) to not be passed.

The Assistant Assessor Paula Morse explained that all property in western Massachusetts has unfortunately gone up, but will research his property and send some reports to him of comparable properties in the area. The Board will be kept apprised of the communications.

**Minutes**

Minutes for December 23rd were approved by Alan Coutinho, Jim Richardson and Joel Dwight.

 **Assistant Assessor Updates –** Assistant Assessor informed the Board that the excise bills will be sent to the Collector soon and possibly sent out the first week in February. Collector is out this week but Paula will keep the Board informed.

 **Budget –** The first item discussed was the Personnel costs. Alan Coutinho asked was the average raise would probably be, was it going to be Cost of Living at 5.9 or 2.5%. Paula admitted not knowing but assumed it would be 2.5%. Alan would like to see the Board of Assessor stipend increased by the Cost of Living at 5.9%. Jim Richardson agreed with him stating that while “no one goes into this job for the money, it might be easier to find someone to fill the position(s) if there is an incentive to join once he and Alan are no longer on the board.”

Paula will put some numbers together and talking points to present at the Selectboard meeting on February 28th.

 Next discussed was the Contracted Services. Paula explained that the $4000 usually asked for in past years for Utility Appraisals would not be required this year due to the fact that the appraisal had last been done in 2020 and would not need to be done again for a few more years. Hydro appraisal was done for 2022 and will not need to done again for 5 years.

The budget for the cyclical inspection increased by $200. This was increased so that the town could have 120 properties appraised instead of 110, to help “catch up” for appraisals that have not been done.

 Operating costs decreased by $1,327. Due to the fact that we will no longer be funding Point software or legal notices and due and associations are less than expected.

 The board agreed with all budget requests.

**Next Meeting – Thursday February 17th. Will decide later if it will be via Zoom or in person depending on how comfortable we are. Paula will contact Board after the 1st of February to discuss this.**

**Motion was made by Alan Coutinho and seconded by Jim Richardson to adjourn at 6:28pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**Paula Morse**

**Assistant Assessor**

**January 24, 2022**

 Documents Submitted:

 MV Monthly Turnover December

 Monthly List for July, August, September, October, November and December 2021.

 Actual Real Estate and Personal Property Warrants