

Board of Assessors Minutes of Meeting November 30th, 2023

ZOOM CONFERENCE INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE MEETING AGENDA FOR THE PUBLIC TO JOIN.

Attendance: Assessors Norman Charest and Robert Makuch, Principal Assessor, Kelly McCormick and Associate Assessor, Jane Ferrentino. There were no calls from the public to join the meeting.

A motion was made to call the meeting to order at 9:40AM.

Meeting Minutes - Jane provided the Open and Executive Session Meeting Minutes from April 13th, 2023, and September 27th, 2023. The Board reviewed the minutes. Mr. Charest made a motion to approve the April 13th, 2023, Open Session Meeting Minutes with changes. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. All in favor. Mr. Charest made a motion to approve the April 13th, 2023, Executive Session Meeting Minutes with changes. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. All in favor. Mr. Charest made a motion to approve the September 27th, 2023, Open Session minutes with changes. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. All in favor. Mr. Charest made a motion to approve the September 27th, 2023, Executive Session minutes. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. All in favor. Jane will correct the minutes and add the Open Session minutes to the Town of Hampden's website.

Office Updates:

- FY2024 Certification – Kelly advised the Board that we received Final Certification yesterday. The town's new value is \$877,611,088 which is an increase of about \$75 million from FY2023. We will have the New Growth approval from the DOR soon. New Growth is about \$65 million for FY2024 from new parcels, New Construction, Additions, and the four Public Utilities.
- Tax Classification Hearing – Kelly reminded the Board of the Tax Classification Hearing this coming Monday, December 4th at 6:05 PM. There will be a Budget Kick Off Meeting right after the Hearing at 6:30 PM. Kelly will be sending out the Tax Classification Hearing Packets to everyone once they are complete.
- Public Disclosure – Kelly let the Board know that there were no calls or anyone that came in for Public Disclosure.

New Business:

- Board Vacancy – Mr. Charest announced that Mr. Barroso has resigned from the Board of Assessors effective October 15th, 2023. Town Administrator Bob Markel and the Board of Selectman were notified of Mr. Barroso resigning. As of October 2023, there has been a new policy put in place for any Board Vacancies and the Board will be following that process to fill the current vacancy.
- Senior Tax Work-Off Program – Kelly informed the Board that there is a new bill that states the max amount of abatement has been increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per person. The minimum wage is still the same at \$15/hour. We currently have 10 spots to be filled

each year. The Council on Aging and Board of Selectman has asked the Board of Assessors if the Overlay account can afford the increase. They would also like to know if we would be able to increase the number of people from 10 to 14. The total amount will need to increase from \$15,000 to \$28,000. The Board discussed the amount from Overlay and the increase in people and told Kelly to let the Council on Aging and the Board of Selectman know that they approve. Kelly will send out an email today.

- Room Occupancy Excise Tax – The Board touched briefly on this subject at the meeting on April 13th, 2023. Kelly has done some more research on this local option excise tax. She informed the Board that Massachusetts has a state room occupancy excise tax rate of 5.7%. The room occupancy excise tax applies to room rentals of 90 days or less in hotels, motels, bed and breakfast establishments, and lodging houses. In addition to the state excise, Massachusetts cities and towns are permitted to charge a local room occupancy excise tax of up to 6%. Beginning July 1, 2019, for short-term rentals only, cities and towns are permitted to charge an additional community impact fee up to 3% if an operator has more than one property in that locality or is renting an owner-occupied 2 or 3-family house on a short-term rental basis. Kelly reached out to several other communities and the DLS to get more information. She informed the Board that she is waiting for the DLS Data Analytics & Resource Bureau to provide her with a list of the properties that are registered through the state to therefore determine the potential revenue if the town were to adopt this local option. Kelly will provide the Board with an update once she has this information.
- Office Closing – Kelly informed that Board that we will be closing the office Thursday December 7th for the HHCAA Annual Meeting and Holiday party.
- Uncollectible Motor Vehicle Excise Tax – Jane submitted the Abatements for the Uncollectible Motor Vehicle Excise Tax for Levy 2008 through Levy 2019. Mr. Charest motioned to approve all of Abatements for Levy 2008 through Levy 2019. Jane is going to make copies of all the documentation and submit it to the Town Accountant. Levy Year and amounts are below:
 - Levy 2008: \$2,051.25
 - Levy 2009: \$420.00
 - Levy 2010: \$1,053.86
 - Levy 2011: \$1,521.46
 - Levy 2012: \$1,730.53
 - Levy 2013: \$1,535.31
 - Levy 2014: \$805.00
 - Levy 2015: \$880.93
 - Levy 2016: \$2,184.69
 - Levy 2017: \$1,403.02
 - Levy 2018: \$3,167.01
 - Levy 2019: \$5,335.82
 - TOTAL is \$22,088.88

Correspondence:

- FY2025 Chapter 61 Liens – Jane informed provided the Board with two Chapter 61 Liens for FY2025 for the Board to sign. The Board had already voted on the renewal at the September 27, 2023 meeting. The Liens are for the properties as below:
 - Doyle (29-42-1) 150 Ames Rd.
 - Pafumi (9-7-1) Chapin Rd.

Jane will send the letter to the owners for the lien funds so we can have the Liens recorded at the Registry.

- FY2025 Chapter 61B Applications: Jane provided the Board with a list of all the FY2025 Chapter Applications to go over for the meeting. Jane informed the Board that there are 9 Chapter 61B renewal applications with no changes. Jane created the Notice of Actions to be signed by the Board. There was also one new applicant:
 - **Fisk (28-37-0)** - Mr. Charest motioned to approve the FY2025 application. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Mr. Charest – yes. Mr. Makuch – yes. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
 - Jane listed off all 9 Chapter 61B renewal applicants by name and parcel location. Mr. Charest made a motion to approve all Chapter 61B renewal applications, Mr. Makuch 2nd the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Mr. Charest – yes. Mr. Makuch – yes. The Board voted unanimously in favor. The Board signed all the (9) Notice of Actions for the renewal applications for Fiscal Year 2025.

Signatures:

- Payroll

Executive Session – At approximately 10:55 AM Mr. Charest made a motion to enter into Executive Session to comply with the provisions of Chapter 59 Section 60 Purpose #7 to discuss and review the FY2024 Statutory Exemption Applications and FY2025 61A Chapter Applications. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. The Board will resume in Open Session. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Mr. Charest – yes. Mr. Makuch – yes. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Open Session - At approximately 11:08 AM Mr. Charest made a motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to Open Session to record our votes taken in Executive Session. Mr. Makuch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. Mr. Charest – yes. Mr. Makuch – yes. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

The following list is a recording of the votes taken by the Board of Assessors on the FY2024 Statutory Exemption Applications presented to them at the meeting. A roll call vote was taken on the applications: Mr. Charest – yes. Mr. Makuch – yes. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

MBLU	Block	Lot	Owners Name	Address Line 1	Clause	Vote
21	68	7	BRAYTON SHERRELYN J	8 SOUTHWOOD CR	41C	APPROVED
17	101	0	GILDAY RICHARD D	113 RAYMOND DR	22E	APPROVED
10	33	0	GIOMBETTI RICHARD	44 ST GERMAIN	22 NEW	APPROVED
21	40	18	QUINN PAUL J	97 TALL PINES RD #18	22 NEW	APPROVED

22	98	0	SOJA BRET S	50 PONDVIEW DR	22 NEW	APPROVED
13	22	0	BUDROW DANIEL	75 SOUTH RD	22	APPROVED
16	70	0	CAMPBELL DONALD J	300 ALLEN ST	22	APPROVED
7	79	0	PROVENCHER PAUL	98 COLONY DR	22	APPROVED
11	68	0	TALBOT DONALD R	39 CARMODY RD	22	APPROVED
21	12	0	TWINNING SCOTT E	14 BROOKSIDE DR	22	APPROVED
22	138	0	ZEBERT THEODORE M JR	180 SESSIONS DR	22	APPROVED

Next Meeting:

To be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Ferrentino
Associate Assessor, MAA