

TOWN OF HARVARD
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

13 AYER ROAD • HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01451



The Town of Harvard Board of Assessors is chartered "...to assess state and county taxes duly certified to them based on the Assessors' determination of the real and personal property valuations."

Following is the MINUTES for the REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Assessors at the Town Hall in the MAIN MEETING Room on **Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm**

Posted: 12/14/2017 @ 10:30 am

BY KAS

TOPICS:

TIME:

Call to Order

1:07 pm

Attendance Peter E. Warren (PW), Chairman, Richard F. Maiore (RM), Kelly A. Szocik (KS), Assistant Assessor, Rebecca Boucher(RB), Associate Assessor RRG, , Harald Scheid (HS), Regional Assessor RRG

Motion to approve minutes of last meeting.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 Meeting

Motion: RM Second: PW Vote: Unanimous

Signed the Following Documents:

Motor Vehicle Abatement Reports

Motor Vehicle Warrant & Commitment

Actual Real Estate Commitment and Warrants

Statutory Exemption Certificates – **Motion to allow the Assistant Assessor to sign the approved Statutory Exemption Certificates for FY 2018.**

Motion: RM Seconded: PW Vote: Unanimous

Forestry Certificates – **Davis Forestry Plan**

Classified Land Tax Liens – **Map/Parcel: 23/50; Rushmore, 21/65/1; Metcalf, and 14/15.1; Davis and Barrett**

Unfinished/On-Going Business

Reviewed Current Monthly Assessment/Sales Data

Reviewed Assessment Calendar – (RB) we are on track, if anything we are ahead of schedule with the marked items.

New Business

Regional Assessor's Report – RRG – *moved to the end of the meeting, per (HS) request.*

Reviewed the FY 2017 Assessor's Town Report – Draft – **(PW) Thank you Becky, nice job.**

Reviewed the FY 2018 TOH Value & Tax Summary Brochure – **(PW) Thank you to Becky again. Nice job, good hand out. (RM) We may want to check out debt exclusions from other towns and get an idea for we may be facing that situation in future.**

FY2019 Chapter Applications –

(RM) make a motion to approve the following Chap 61A application(s)

Seconded: (PW) Vote: Unanimous

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- **85 Depot-Harvard Rd; Dragonback Chp 61B**
- **Woodchuck Hill Rd; Rushmore Chp 61A**
- **284 Still River Rd; Evans Chp 61A**

(RM) make a motion to deny 42 Bolton Rd Chap 61A application due to not meeting the actively devoted use minimum requirements. Seconded: (PW) Vote: Unanimous

FY2019 Chapter Abatement Application -

(RM) Motion to deny 58 Old Mill Rd, 4/15 – Chapter Abatement Application due to non-timely filing of abatement application. Second: (PW) Vote: Unanimous.

Regional Assessor's Report – RRG

(HS) Becky accepted a FT position with the Town of Boxborough, MA. She will no longer be with RRG. Thursday December 21, 2017 will be her last day in Harvard and Friday December 22, 2017 will be her last day with RRG.

Had to place thought in Reinventing the Company (RRG). It is a challenge to find qualified Assessors; they are just not out there. I am getting called weekly by communities for Assessors. Looking to hire a DOR individual to do the Eastern part of MA for RRG and that would free someone up for availability to Harvard for their two days.

RRG has partnered with Telepresence Tech of Plano, Texas to bring local government cutting edge technology that provides taxpayers with live-person to person sessions using virtual reality transmitted through a stunning 3-D hologram display (Kiosk).

It would be like what I call a “back office” staffed with specialists. Using Chapter land as an example, this individual would answer only questions dealing with Chap land. They would assist the customer through that back office and free up the Admin in the office.

January 2018 RRG is looking for 5 pilot towns. I spoke with Tim Bragan last week and he has given his blessing and expressed interest in Harvard becoming one of the 5 pilot towns. He wanted me to present it to the Board of Assessors to get approval to be a beta town.

(RM) It sounds like it is the way the world is going and if Tim Bragan has already given blessing, then I do not see it being a pilot town a problem. I would like to know how this will impact Kelly's position and her opinion of this.

(KS) This is the first time I am hearing about this and unfamiliar with any of the direct positive or negative impact it may present to my current

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position of Assistant Assessor. I can not disagree that it appears this is the way the world is going in the future.

(PW) I also am concerned with the impact on Kelly and her position. Would there be a single person per specialty offered? How does communication remain with the Board of Assessors? How will this work if this was to go forward, how soon are we looking at?

(HS) I can only see that there would be more room for growth for someone in Kelly's position, as currently there is no room to grow. The Assessors would get monthly reports like they do now. Installation is as early as next week. I have the equipment and the 22 personnel excited and ready to go.

(Board took no action)

Comments from members of the public

Executive Session

Set date for next meeting

Time: **1PM** Date: **January 9, 2018**

Adjournment: **2:24 pm**