

Board of Assessors

September 15, 2000 - **Minutes**

PRESENT: Assessor Peter S. Barney, Chairman, Assessor Marty Treadup, Clerk, Assessor Robert Pacheco, Norman A. Bergeron, Administrative Assistant, Marianna M. Penha, Recording Clerk.

Meeting called to order at 9:01 A.M.

Assessor Barney: We are meeting on Friday this week, because of the presence of the Department of Revenue to officially finally begin the pre-certification of the Re-Valuation.

There is no Banker & Tradesmen yet this week; they are very much delayed.

The Overlay Account has been squared up with the Auditor's office for last year.

I would like to say a few words on the Re-Valuation. I want it noted correctly that the Department of Revenue was first to appear here on May 15, and they were to return in June, July and then in August. They have finally arrived. Instead of doing the normal procedure where we have numerous days ahead of time, single day and half -day meetings, as reports are created and examined for accuracy and detailed work, the Department of Revenue is now geared to one person to do all this work in four and a half days. Clearly, this is not a good procedure. The Department of Revenue is extremely short staffed, and they took the position of putting all of the semi-annually bill towns on the docket first, and then they put all of the quarterly towns second on the docket. They have been running into nothing but trouble with towns being able to create reports that the Department of Revenue can read.

Assessor Barney: To date, it is our understanding that 18 out of 18 different towns done by our particular representative have been preliminarily rejected for certification and had to go back to the drawing board. We on this Board did vote, back in August, for a third estimated bill, if necessary. We had been advised by our department representative that because of the slow down within the Department of Revenue, even if we complete the reports timely this week, and we present them together, and we give them two to three weeks to do his report, and get that submitted to his superior, and get turned around as to whether or not they approve of the preliminary. The time frame gets very close as we get into November, between us, and our certification and classification hearings, and sending the bill. It is no reflection on the local Board of Assessors, or our staff. We have done everything we can to meet the times and deadlines. We were ready to present information to them as early as June, and definitely in August we had it all ready, and they let us sit here for a month, waiting for them to turn up. We cannot speed the process. This is the same situation that is going on in every other City and town this year.

Assessor Barney: We have a settlement to approve and vote on that Mr. Bergeron, Carlos and Bert Peltz have worked out with the attorneys from Walgreen's.

108/7 1737 Acushnet Avenue

Fiscal 1999: Accepted our offer of \$85,000.

Assessor Treadup: Move to approve, ratify and grant.

Assessor Barney: Second.

All in favor? "Aye"

Assessor Barney: Mr. Bergeron, do you have any comments to add today?

N. Bergeron: Wednesday's cases on the Appellate Tax Board, L & S Concrete, Precision Door and Walgreen's have been all been resolved. Bayview has two cases, 1999 & 2000. Attorney Walter Faria, the attorney representing Joblin indicated that they will withdraw their case of August 31. I have not been able to get him to return calls to me, nor has Burt Peltz. If need be, Burt will be at the Appellate Tax Board on the 20th, with a motion to dismiss. Should they show up on the other hand, I suspect that Burt will have to move for immediate postponement based on verbal comments to me by the attorney.

N. Bergeron: The two cases for Berkshire Hathaway are being postponed and Burt is in the process of setting up a site visit there to be followed by a pre-trial hearing, possibly here or at B.H.R. Right now, we're not quite sure what the scheduling will be. The intent is to allow the Appellate Tax Board Commissioners to view the property and get the feel of what the property is worth, definitely a lot more than a quarter of a million dollars, and even more than the million dollars that they are offering us. What they really offered us was the land value of about somewhere in the range of \$800,000. If we go back to the filings that they made for the 1998 cases, they have values on there of \$1,900,000. We had already offered to abate \$480,000 in our first offer.

Regarding our new employee, everything seems to be working out okay. There have been eight people who have come in and signed the list on our proposed next hiring. One has indicated that she definitely does not want the position because she is already working in the Conservation Department. There are three who have brought in their resumes. I don't expect too many more. If that is the case, there isn't a lot of difference from the other list that we had, when we look at the overall numbers of people who have expressed an interest. We will begin making the first calls on Monday and begin setting up appointments.

The two new computers and printers have arrived, and at the moment are with the M.I.S. Department. The office van is at City Yard. Supposedly, yesterday, Larry was going to look at a few cars, to see if he would bid on them. We need two more replacements.

I did call Mark Zajac at the N. B. Economic Development and he happened to stop in the office yesterday. He does not have a copy of the lease. He was going to see if he could obtain one for himself, and in so doing, he would obtain one for us. It is still our initial belief that it should be taxable property until we see some sort of agreement. Upon seeing that agreement, it would probably behoove us at that point, to forward a copy to the Department of Revenue.

Our Re-Val should be done timely and I am sure our Certification will work out in the end.

Assessor Barney: That concludes our agenda for today.

Assessor Treadup: Move to adjourn.

Assessor Pacheco: Second.

All in favor? "Aye"

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 A. M.

Next meeting 9/22/00

Marty Treadup, Clerk