

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

December 2, 2003

PRESENT: Assessor Peter S. Barney, Chairman, Assessor Robert Pacheco, Clerk, Assessor Marty Treadup, Carol I. Roy, Acting Administrative Assistant, Marianna M. Penha, Recording Clerk.

Meeting called to order at 9:07 A.M.

Assessor Barney: We have a property to vote on for exempt status, Better Community Living plot 89 lot 285.

Assessor Treadup: Move to extend exempt status.

Assessor Pacheco: Second.

Assessor Barney: All in favor? "Aye"

Assessor Barney: I will turn the floor over to Ms. Roy to update us on the latest from the Department of Revenue.

C. Roy: Yesterday I received a letter from the Department of Revenue. We have preliminary certification for Fiscal 2004.

Assessor Barney: We are going to get the new growth ready to go and plan to get Rob up here to discuss this. Now the question is what do we do if we lock down the system for the next three months. If the Mayor, City Council and our office were in concert, we could certify and have a tax rate between now and December 15. We could publish values tomorrow morning if we had to and put them all out and cover the public disclosure section, we could then have the new growth, and have the Treasurer ready to go. Sending a third estimated does not have anything to do with the Re-valuation process. We are now ready to wrap this up in a timely fashion. However, it is the position of the Assessors and the Mayor that the City Council should be given the opportunity, because of the Legislation pending in January with Speaker Finneran to allow third quarter estimated bills, to allow property shift to occur to reduce the burden of taxation on the residential taxpayers. We feel that going with third estimates is keeping with that opportunity and to go now at the maximum 175% shift would be a detriment to the residential taxpayers, plus it would prevent the City Council from acting in a different matter should the opportunity present itself. However, in keeping with that, after talking to Mr. Patten, he is in the process of making a Pro-Forma re-cap sheet up with no values on it.

Assessor Barney: This morning we need a vote from the Board to issue a third quarter estimated tax bill under the terms of the legislation passed by the Legislature a week and a half ago to allow cities and towns the opportunity to send third quarter estimated tax bills, while waiting for the Legislature to act upon the central shift of classification up to 200%. Is there a second?

Assessor Treadup: So moved.

Assessor Barney: Second. Are there any further discussions from anyone on this issue? Hearing none we will call for a vote. All in favor? 3 Ayes

I will read a letter to you that I am sending to Deputy Commissioner Joseph J. Chessey, Jr of the Department of Revenue on this matter. A copy will go to Mr. Patten.

I would like to remind everyone of the annual Bristol County Association

Christmas Meeting to be held this Friday night, at the Wamsutta Club. The January meeting will be held in Seekonk on the 15th of January.

That concludes our agenda for today.

Assessor Treadup: Move to adjourn

Assessor Pacheco: Second.

Assessor Barney: All in favor? "Aye"

Robert Pacheco, Clerk