

MINUTES
TOWN OF MONTAGUE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT
1 Avenue A (2nd Floor) Turners Falls, MA
January 23, 2017

A meeting of the Montague Board of Assessors was held on Monday, January 23, 2017.

Assessors present: Chairman Paul Emery, Teresa Miner, Ann Cenzano and Karen Tonelli, Director of Assessing.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Upon a motion that was duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the minutes as printed.

The Assessors discussed the FY2018 Turner Falls Fire District Budget request. A 3% salary increase for the assessors and director were requested. Administrative expenses are down due to the anticipated reduction in reval costs resulting from the change from 3 to 5 years. Similar increases for salaries will be submitted to the Montague Light and Montague Center Fire District.

Karen reported that progress on the Land of Low value and Owner Unknown properties has been good. The Tax Collector has finished with her data and we are ready to submit for approval to the DOR. A meeting with Steve Ellis will take place this week to update him on this as well.

The Assessors signed a revised MVE Recommitment for 2014 in the amount of \$5.00.

Karen Tonelli indicated that she would like to attend an IAAO course in Connecticut in March, 2017 but is not yet certain. A discussion concerning the memorandum regarding the splitting of costs and time associated with attendance at assessing related events and seminars took place. All were in agreement with the policy and procedures set forth in the memo dated January 9, 2017.

Karen informed the board about the possible issuance of town emails to each assessor so that future communications between board members and/or the director would not be via their personal email accounts. The Town Administrator is looking into a Pilot program to see if this is feasible.

The Board signed a summary of all exemptions issued in December, 2016.

Upon review and discussion, it was voted to take action on the following abatement applications:

Eileen Steiner – Est. of Freda Steiner (parcel 23-0-53). Application denied due to the withdrawal of the abatement application.

Brick & Feather LLC – approved abatement of personal property tax bill due to status as a manufacturing company as designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

William & Florence Deso, (parcel 35-0-24 was created in error. This land should be a portion of adjacent parcel. Application approved.

Teresa Miner made a motion, which was seconded by Ann Cenzano, to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:_____

Karen M. Tonelli, M.A.A.
Director of Assessor

List of Documents – December 19, 2016 meeting

2014 MVE recommitment (revised)

FY17 Abatement Applications - Waidlich, Steiner. Brick & Feather, Deso

December summary of exemptions issued in 2016

Memorandum regarding course costs sharing dated 1/9/17