

Stockbridge Board of Assessors

Record of Meeting

Date – Monday November 17th, 2022

Time – 9:00 am

Location – This was a Zoom and In-Person Meeting

Present - Michael Blay, Principal Assessor

- Gary Pitney

- Douglas Goudey

- Thomas Stokes

The Board discussed the following items at their meeting:

Last Meeting Minutes – The Board reviewed the last meeting minutes and had no issues or comments.

Final Certification of FY23 5-Year Certification - Mike reviewed with the Board that they have been talking about certification during the summer and the fall, as of Monday the numbers were finalized. All of these forms will be submitted to the DOR for approval.

LA-4 & LA-13 (New Growth) – Mike informed the Board that these forms were submitted to the DOR and were accepted, he went over the definition of these forms. The LA-13 valuation increased to \$9,110,425.00, there was \$85,000.00 new in tax dollars. It's added to the tax levy that the state uses it to make sure we don't go over the levy limit.

FY2023 Recap & Supporting Documents – Mike informed the Board that these documents can be submitted after the hearing, they will be sent Friday morning. Last year's tax rate was \$9.38, this year's rate is \$8.14. The increase in assessments brought the tax rate down, the tax levy increased by \$150,000.00. The department heads went over all of the numbers to get the tax rate as low as possible, this is the biggest decrease ever of the tax rate.

FY23 Tax Classification Hearing-Board of Assessors to Make Recommendations on Residential Factor, Residential Tax Exemption and Small Commercial Exemption – Mike informed the Board that this meeting is happening tonight at 6:30 p.m. here at the town hall and on Zoom, he prepares a packet each year and it is given to the selectboard to review before the meeting. This packet is updated with the new numbers. Residential Factor- This is to split the tax rate into 2, personal and commercial. Gary made a recommendation to keep the residential factor at 1, it keeps it as a single tax rate and doesn't split it. Doug 2nd the recommendation and all were in favor. Next was the Residential Tax Exemption- this would benefit the full-time residents with a reduction of their taxes, it excludes 2nd homeowners and people who rent. They would need to show proof that they are full time residents. Gary made a recommendation that they do not support implementing the Residential Tax Exemption, Doug 2nd it and all were in favor. Last was the Small Commercial Exemption-allows for up to a 10% deduction off each parcel, the business will have to have 10 employees or more. Facts-based off of business they won't benefit from it, it creates a shift. Gary made a recommendation to maintain status quo and not implement it, Doug 2nd it and all were in favor. Mike will send a selectboard with the Boards recommendations.

Information Request from Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum – Mike informed the Board that Monday, November 14th, was the deadline for them to answer the questions. Mike received an email from them that they are still working on it, they will get it to our office by the end of this week. Nothing can be changed for FY23, they would be changed in FY24. They can file an abatement on this when the tax bills go out in December.

Update of Tax Exemption Pilot Program - Tom informed Mike, Gary and Doug that there are no new updates.

Questions or Comments from Zoom or Live Audience – There was no one in the audience, there were 4 people on Zoom but there were no questions or comments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Tammy Touponce, Assessors Clerk

*Supporting documents are on file with the Assessor's Office.