

Stockbridge Board of Assessors

Record of Meeting

Date – Monday September 7, 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.

Update on FY23 Certification - Mike reviewed with the Board that the sales have been submitted, hopefully Joe Barbieri will sign off on them this week. There was no issue with the sales, Joe requested Mike give him the top 5 taxpayers for last year and this year. All the backup is ready but Joe doesn't want Mike to submit it yet, Mike will have to send everything as a PDF file.

Available State & Local Tax Relief Exemptions – Mike reviewed with the Board that at the Selectboard meeting there will be a presentation from Mike Canales about the exemptions, he prepared spreadsheets and a PowerPoint presentation. Clause 41C ½ would be the better exemption than what's given, Mike agrees this should be an option to taxpayers. 41C gives \$500, 41C ½ could give up to \$1,000. With the 41D exemption the age would be lowered from 70 to 65, there would be an increase from \$500 to \$1,000 and it would have to be approved at town meeting. There is an income limit and also an age limit, more taxpayer would qualify. With 41C ½ there is no asset limit and it increases the limit per household to \$62,000, ownership has to be the primary resident to qualify. There are other options for exemptions, the 2 other options are deferral and circuit breaker but this would need to be discussed in depth. Mike would like to get the needed information to the homeowners about these exemptions, Peter Ungaro thanked Mike for giving the data needed for everyone to understand these exemptions. He was also very responsive to everyone.

Update on Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum Inc. (2 Depot St.) Request for Tax Exempt Status – Mike informed the Board that he has sent an email with the revised questions, he would like to get them out by the end of the week. They discussed how much response time should they give for them to answer these questions, the Board agreed on 30 days for them to be returned. Mike will type up the final copy of the questions and get them to Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum Inc.

Questions or Comments from Zoom or Live Audience – No one was in the audience and there were 3 attendees on Zoom, there were no questions or comments.

Vote to Enter into Executive Session per MGL Ch. 30A, sec 21(a)7 to Discuss and Review Motor Vehicle Abatements and the Property Tax Exempt Status for Several Properties and Chair to Declare Whether or not the Board Will Return to Open Meeting Session Upon Completion of the Executive Session – Gary made a motion to enter into executive session. Doug 1st the motion, Tom 2nd it and it was put forth by the Board that they will be entering into executive session and not returning to open session when completed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Tammy Touponce, Assessors Clerk

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