

Stockbridge Board of Assessors

Record of Meeting

Date – Monday July 27th, 2020

Time – 9:00 am

Location – This was a Zoom meeting

Present - Michael Blay, Principal Assessor

- Gary Pitney, Chairman

- Douglas Goudey

- Thomas Stokes

The Board discussed the following items at their meeting:

Last Meeting Minutes – Last meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

Board to Review & Sign Motor Vehicle Abatement Applications & Certificates – Mike informed the Board that there are abatement applications and certificates here that need to be signed, they agreed to come in. When they come in they will review and sign them, then they will get mailed out.

Board to Review & Sign Real Estate Tax Uncollectible for 2019 (FY20) – Mike informed the Board that there is a real estate uncollectible that needs to be signed, they agreed to come in and sign it. As soon as it is signed I will process it and have it ready for them to sign at their next meeting.

Board to Review & Sign CAI GIS Internet Service Maintenance Agreement– Mike reviewed with the Board that CAI has mailed the town the maintenance agreement, the Board agreed that they would come in, look at the agreement and sign it. There will also be another agreement coming in before the end of the year that will need to be signed.

House at 106 East Main Street – Mike informed the Board that he has been emailing the assessor in Lee about this property, they have been picking up this property and sending them bills. Mike read one of the emails to the Board, Mike and Sarah have been looking into it. This property will definitely need to be surveyed, it sold a few months ago. Lee will be picking up the house in their town and Stockbridge will be picking up a portion of the 2 acres of land.

Update on Safety Protocols & Reopening – Mike informed the Board that their next meeting on August 17th could be held here in the gym, we are still waiting to find out if that is going to be a possibility or if they will have to hold another Zoom meeting.

Sales Analysis for FY 2021 Valuations & Update on Other FY 21 Related Issues – Mike reviewed with the Board that last week he had issues with the new system, he couldn't recalculate any of the values. Vision had to fix the system, once this was done he was able to finish the valuations. Mike talked to the DOR and he would like to submit these by the end of August, the valuations are finished. Mike mentioned to the Board that he suggested the Residential Exemption & Small Commercial exemption as a topic for the round table BCAA meeting that is coming together for September, he felt that it may be something that cities and towns may take a closer look at because of the impacts of Covid19.

This led to further discussion about such exemptions amongst the Board, Mike mentioned that there has been some initial discussion with two selectmen about these exemptions and possible implementation of them. Mike discussed how important it is to have further discussions on this subject and to not implement such for FY2021 because of the short notice and lack of public input and the results of Covid19, he mentioned that the implementation of a residential exemption will take an extended effort by department heads and updated of the tax billing software. There was some discussion about the possible difficulty in identifying who would actually qualify for such exemptions.

The Board of Assessors agreed that there should be much more discussion and public input on the idea of voting for a residential exemption, one fact that Doug mentioned is the possible defunding of the Aid for the Elderly fund if this is enacted. He suggested a vote by the Board of Assessors to declare their interest in further discussion (perhaps in a committee) and input from the public, they voted and it was unanimous.

Update on Tax Exemption Pilot Program – Tom updated Mike, Gary and Doug that there's nothing new to report since their last assessor's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Tammy Touponce, Assessors Clerk

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