

TOWN OF LITTLETON

MINUTES OF
BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING
Town Hall, Friday, April 11, 2008
Room 205

Present: Fred Freund, Pamela Campbell, and James Winroth, Kenneth Mildren, Chief Assessor and Anita Harding, recording secretary.

Absent: Brian Wright and Will Ingham

The meeting came to order at 7:30 a.m.

Ken opened a discussion on churches and their “not for profit” status as exempt from paying real estate tax. Some of the churches receive rent from preschools for using the property and from different organizations using the halls for meetings. The Board’s stand on the subject is that a church is a “not for profit” entity and therefore exempt. Fred stated that it is not the Board’s call, to challenge this exemption. It is clear from the filing that any rent income received goes back into the monies of the church for bills and upkeep. At the end of the year the church does not show a profit.

The Tax Collector submitted a request that the personal property tax bills for West Ridge Inc be abated as uncollectible. All attempts have been made to contact this company by telephone, mail and even the website. All attempts have failed. Jim made a motion to abate the 2006, 2007 and 2008 tax bills as uncollectible under the Tax Collector’s chapter and section. The motion was seconded by Pamela and the vote was unanimous.

Ken informed the Board that his anniversary date of hire will be April 20 and that under the personnel bylaw, he is entitled to a step increase.

Pamela made a motion the re-appoint Alan McRae as the Board’s representative to the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Jim and the vote was unanimous. A note will be sent to Alan informing him of the vote.

A letter was received from Bonnie, our accountant, requesting that Overlay monies be released. The Board had previously sent a letter to her explaining the Town’s liability for previous year’s overlay accounts. Many utility ATB cases have not been settled and when and if they are there will be a significant burden on the Town to reimburse any abated amount and if the monies are released, at this time, there might not be enough to cover these abatements. The letter from Bonnie explained that she was aware of the liability but was still requesting that the following monies be released: \$137,669.78 of the 2006 overlay, \$53,198.93 of the 2007 overlay and \$124,396.11 of the 2008 overlay. She also stated that the budget calls for \$200,000 to be put in the 2009 overlay account. That amount will be voted at Town Meeting. Jim made a motion to release the overlay monies as requested and the motion was seconded by Pamela. The vote was unanimous.

In other matters, the Board voted to issue abatements on the following properties: 6 Highland Ave, 10 New Estate Rd, 257 Goldsmith St., 38 Orchid Dr., 203 Hartwell Ave, and 33 Westchester Dr. They also denied the abatement application for 191 Foster St.,

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for April 18, 2008 at 7:30 a.m.