

BOARD OF ASSESSORS
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2007 AT 7:30 a.m.
Held in Room 205

MINUTES

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

The Board signed the monthly reports, warrants, and commitments.

The Board approved and signed the applications for all chapter lands for 2009 and the applications for elderly exemptions, veteran's exemptions and blind exemptions for 2008.

Ken explained to the Board that the Town of Littleton is going to create a new Web site. Each department will be responsible for their own portion of the web site and all future updates. The Board was asked if they would like any specific information posted on the Assessor's portion. The Board will prepare a list of most frequently asked questions and the answers to be posted. Some members suggested that the property records be posted and Ken explained that there would be a cost involved in doing that. It would be somewhere in the vicinity of \$2,500. It was decided that the people that would benefit from them being posted would be real estate brokers and appraisers and not the general public and therefore they would not be posted at this time. The discussion may be revisited at some future time.

There was a discussion on the Assessor's overlay account from previous years. The Finance Director has asked that the Board release any unused monies from previous years. Ken stated that \$137,577.34 could be released from 1997-2004 because the appellate cases for those years have been settled but that the \$257,262.62 for 2004-2007 should not be released because there are several utility cases still pending. Brian Wright made a motion to release the \$137,577.34 and Pamela Campbell seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Ken invited the new Town Administrator, Keith Bergman, to the meeting to meet the Board members. During the meeting Mr. Bergman explained that in an effort to help with economic development that the Planning Board had

voted, on September 27, 2007, that they will use an expedited permitting process for the IBM and CISCO sites. This should make the sites more desirable to developers.

He also explained that the Selectmen are looking for new space for the COA and the Park and Recreation department and also reviewing all possible locations for a new police station.

Ken explained to the Board that the actual real estate tax bills would include a 1% Conservation Preservation Act (CPA) tax that was voted at the Polls in May 2007. He explained that the Assessor's involvement would be supplying the Applications for Exemption to taxpayers, as well as reviewing the applications, to see if they qualify for an exemption. There is a household income requirement that must be met in order to qualify. Mr. Bergman explained that the Selectmen are putting together a CPA committee that will advise them as to what to send the money on. He also stated that the Town will get matching funds from the State each year. The Selectmen will form a committee that will be made up of one person from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Housing department and Park and Recreation and 4 members appointed by the Selectmen. Ken also stated that the Finance Director will do a press release explaining the CPA and the Assessor's staff will meet with the COA and explain to the Seniors the exemption process and what will be needed to qualify them for the exemption.

The Board voted to approve the abatement applications for 2007 for the following properties:

167 Tadmuck Trail, 18 Surrey Dr, and 90 Grist Mill Rd.

The Board voted to deny the abatement applications for 2007 for the following properties:

92 Grist Mill Rd, 1 Laury Ln and 50 Russell St.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. and the next scheduled meeting will be October 26, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.