

March 23, 2021 Board of Assessors VIRTUAL Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Chairman Jeffrey Quackenbush, Susan Reyes and Howard Shpetner.

Also present: Administrative Assessor Kevin Rudden and Assessors' Clerk Leslie Bracebridge.

Chairman Jeffrey Quackenbush opened the meeting at 5:30 PM online using ZOOM Meeting ID: 811 2212 1260, Passcode: i0e0Ee, Phone: 1-646-558-8656, Passcode: 536083.

The draft February 9, 2021 meeting minutes were approved with the corrected figure of \$6,345.74 for the January 2021 Motor Vehicle Abatement total.

The following Accountant Reports were approved for signature stamps:

- **Motor Vehicle Abatements:**

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Total Amount Abated</u>
2021	February (2021)	\$236.43

- **Real Property Exemptions:**

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Total Amount Abated</u>
2021	February (2021)	\$1750.00

- **Community Preservation Act Exemptions:**

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Total Amount Abated</u>
2021	February (2021)	\$ 87.04

Exemption applications continue to come in as we approach the April 1 deadline. There have been no new applicants. The March exemptions will be processed and reported to Assessors at the next meeting, in the March Exemptions Accountant's report.

3-ABC filings: All 4 expected 3-ABC filings have been filed correctly:

1. The 2 expired PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) plans have been renewed:
 - a. Sirius was re-negotiated last fall by Administrative Assessor Rudden and Town Administrator Torres.
 - b. Temenos has offered a new agreement and already paid the amount.
2. Both properties will be inspected in late April, Kevin will make late afternoon or weekend appointments and notify Assessors in case they wish to attend.

Chapter 61 Forestry renewals/updates:

1. A late Ch 61 10-year renewal application for D-10 off Cooleyville RD has been received, as anticipated. The papers are in order and due to its 10-year status, with papers to be returned to DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) Leslie will make arrangements to get Jeff's wet signatures as needed.
2. Kevin has determined that of the 5 Forestry plans on potential solar farm properties, 1 expires in 2025, and 4 expire in 2029.
3. Kevin is monitoring the timeline with the new owner of the proposed cell tower property to notify the town that it wishes to take a 75' X 75' portion of the property out of Chapter 61 to convert to commercial use. Kevin is waiting to receive the plot plan which should show the dimensions of the driveway segment.

Most **Forms of Lists** have been returned:

1. All electric utilities have submitted the new format for forms of lists. Kevin attended a Zoom training and learned:

- a. The state's cities and towns have been divided up such that 4 designated firms will assist towns in valuing the utilities' personal property according to the revised methods. Kevin confirmed that the firm designated to assist Shutesbury has all of the information needed.
- b. Towns which have completed their updates have benefited from a median increase in value of 35%, which could translate into a \$1,000,000 for Shutesbury.

In keeping with the responsibilities of Assessors as defined by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), Kevin has posted a tax rate analysis of the solar power endeavors under possible consideration in Shutesbury based on information received thus far from **Amp Energy**.

Kevin reviewed his request for **vacation** time in the coming week. Upon his return he will be starting new growth inspections.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Assessors adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, as approved on May 11, 2021,

Leslie Bracebridge
Assessors' Clerk

List of Documents used at the meeting:

1. March 23, 2021 meeting agenda.
2. February 9, 2021 draft meeting minutes.
3. February 2021 Accountant Reports as detailed in minutes.
4. D-10 Chapter 61 recertification application