

November 29, 2021 Board of Assessors VIRTUAL Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Chairman Jeffrey Quackenbush and member Howard Shpetner.

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

Chairman Jeffrey Quackenbush opened the meeting at 5:35 PM online using ZOOM Meeting ID 860 9292 5136, Passcode: dc0uZ2. Phone: 1 929 205 6099, Passcode: 206862.

No minutes were reviewed at this topic specific meeting. Minutes will be reviewed at the next regular meeting instead.

Kevin reviewed the FY 22 tax rate process:

1. The MA Department of Revenue (DOR) has asked a lot of questions regarding the reports submitted for the FY 22 tax-rate setting purposes:
 - a. A consultant was used to prepare the utilities values according to the new DOR specifications. The consultant's report was sent to DOR to answer those questions.
 - b. The DOR is currently questioning the Chapter 61 land-use values, which the DOR feels are too high according to the values set annually by the Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission (FVAC). Kevin is creating a parcel-by-parcel spreadsheet breakdown of values, which he hopes will resolve these questions.
 - i. Kevin reports, "Everything adds up."
 - ii. Assuming this spreadsheet is accepted, the Select Board can move forward with their tax classification hearing scheduled for tomorrow (Nov. 30) night. Since this is a Select Board activity, a quorum of Assessors is not required, though all are welcome to attend.
 - iii. If the numbers are not accepted, the Select Board will have to continue their hearing.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

1. Cell Tower update: The driveway was begun without a curb-cut permit from the Highway Department, and no application for a building permit was filed before the driveway was started. A building permit has now been filed, but not yet approved. AT&T is a guaranteed carrier as part of a national emergency services contract to blanket the country with dedicated cell service to emergency responders.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM. At least Kevin will be present at the Wednesday, November 30, Select Board tax classification hearing.

Assessors adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, as approved on December 30, 2021,

**Leslie Bracebridge
Assessors' Clerk**

List of Documents used at the meeting:

1. November 29, 2021 meeting agenda.