



Town of Grafton
Office of the Board of Assessors
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GRAFTON, MA
2016 DEC 14 PM 1:19:00

**MINUTES
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
November 15, 2016**

A meeting of the Grafton Board of Assessors was held in the Grafton Municipal Center on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. Chairman Drew Manlove, Clerk Marsha Platt, Member Ken Grew and Tammy Kalinowski were present at the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Drew Manlove called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from October 25, 2016 was made by Ken Grew and seconded by Marsha Platt. Motion passed.

B. Bills – November: The following FY 2017 bills were approved:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Real Estate Research Consultants | \$ 28,730.00 |
| W.B. Mason | \$ 56.00 |
| Drew | \$ 111.26 |
| | \$ 28,897.26 |

C. Senior Work-Off Abatements: A motion to approve FY 17 Senior Work-Off abatements was made by Ken Grew and seconded by Drew Manlove. All were in favor. Motion passed. See attached.

Drew informed the Board that there were changes to the Senior Work-Off program through the Municipal Modernization Bill. Originally the local option for the Senior Work-Off program allowed the Town to adopt a number of hours, 125 hours, at minimum wage or a flat dollar amount. The Municipal Modernization act changes the dollar limit to \$1,500. Drew noted that, originally, the Town adopted a dollar limit; however, the Town recently voted to change that and adopted a set number of hours, 125 hours, multiplied by the minimum wage. Drew stated that the minimum wage will increase to \$11/hour on January 1, 2017, changing the exemption granted to \$1,375 and will go up again to \$12/hour on January 1, 2018, changing the exemption granted to \$1,500.

D. Sign Chapter Land Lien – Michael Gale, 107 East Street: The Board signed the Chapter 61 Lien for Michael Gale, 107 East Street. The signed lien along with the \$75 recording fee will be sent to the Worcester District Registry of Deeds for recording.

E. Vision Update: Drew informed the Board that there was a misunderstanding with the Vision cost. The web hosting was not included in the annual support fee. Drew spoke with Patrick Donovan from Vision regarding the costs. Vision was able to decrease the annual support fee and the conversion cost. Drew updated the cost comparison spreadsheet for Vision and Tyler Technologies. The Board reviewed the cost analysis. A motion to reaffirm the vote from the October 25, 2016 and sign the contract with Vision for the CAMA conversion was made by Ken Grew and seconded by Marsha Platt. All were in favor. Motion passed.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Tax Classification Hearing: Drew informed the Board that he will be attending the Board of Selectmen meeting tonight and will be presenting information for the purpose of setting the tax rate. Drew shared the tax classification packet with the Board. Drew also emailed the packet to the members of the Board of Selectmen and let them know that if they had any questions prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting he would be happy to answer them. Drew informed the Board that proposed tax rate is \$16.40 per thousand dollars of value. This is a

decrease from last fiscal year's tax rate of \$16.75 per thousand dollars of value. The Board signed the LA4 and the LA 13. Drew noted that new growth for FY 17 is \$546,479 which is higher than projected.

B. Worcester County Assessors Association Annual County Meeting: Drew informed the Board that the Worcester County Assessors Association Annual County Meeting will be held at the Salem Cross Inn on December 7, 2016. Drew Invited the Board to join the staff at the meeting for the Fireside Feast.

C. Verizon Update: Drew updated the Board on the Verizon Appellate Tax Board (ATB) case. Verizon is contesting the value of personal property tax from many cities/towns. Drew explained that Verizon has issue with the tax rate with which the personal property is being taxed by some communities. Verizon's position is that there is nothing in the law that states that personal property is to be taxed at a commercial tax rate. This does not affect Grafton as we have one tax rate. Verizon appealed the Appellate Tax decision to the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC). The SJC upheld the ATB's decision and ruled that personal property should be taxed at the commercial tax rate. Drew will get additional information on the Verizon case for the Board's December meeting.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

5. **ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

None.

6. **MEETING DATES**

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 9:30 AM

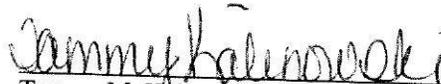
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

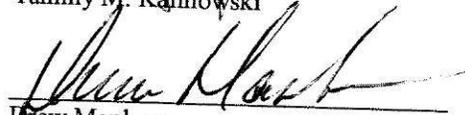
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM was made by Drew Manlove and seconded by Ken Grew. The motion passed.

Minutes typed and recorded by:


Tammy M. Kalinowski

Approved:


Drew Manlove

EXHIBITS:

- Draft minutes October 25, 2016, 4 pages.
- FY 2016 Schedule of Bills Payable, November 1, 2016 and November 4, 2016.
- Senior Work-Off abatements, 10 abatements.
- Classified Forest-Agricultural or Horticultural-Recreational Land Tax Lien, Michael Gale, 107 East Street, 1 page.
- Cost comparison spreadsheet for Vision and Tyler Technologies, 1 page.
- Town of Grafton Memorandum of Understanding CSC CAMA Software End of Life Conversion Decision, Dated November 15, 2016, 2 pages.
- Tax Base Levy FY 17, LA14, 2 pages.
- Assessment/Classification Report As Of 1/1/2016 FY17, LA4, 1page.

FY 2016 RE SENIOR WORK-OFF ABATEMENT REPORT**DATE VOTED 11/15/2016**

| PARCEL ID | OWNER | ABATED TAX | ABATE. CERT. # |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 82-948-49 | ENOS JUNE Z | \$1,159.00 | 7256 |
| 36-0-121 | GLISPEN JENNIE M LIFE ESTATE | \$1,085.00 | 7257 |
| 90-0-21 | JENSEN GINA | \$563.00 | 7258 |
| 37-0-34 | KASABULA ROBERT E | \$1,232.00 | 7259 |
| 19-0-82 | MARSHALL OLIVETTE | \$1,250.00 | 7260 |
| 82-313-49 | MCKENZIE JUDITH A | \$1,250.00 | 7261 |
| 65-0-56 | PELLEGRINO CHARLOTTTE E | \$549.00 | 7262 |
| 38-0-55 | RAYMOND DIANE L | \$1,243.50 | 7263 |
| 83-414-9A | REID WENDY | \$1,176.00 | 7265 |
| 34-0-42 | WAHLGREN ROBERT W | <u>\$1,250.00</u> | 7266 |
| | | \$10,757.50 | |