

Minutes
Board of Assessor's Meeting
May 13, 2013

Members Present: Jason Neuman and Peter Bock

Member Excused: Eugene Reed

Others: Selectman Mary Bonser; and Heidi Seaverns.

6:30 PM Acting Chairman Neuman called the meeting to order.

Ms. Seaverns explained that this meeting had originally been set up for the BOA to meet with BOS & Loren Martin from Avitar. Ms. Seaverns explained she had sent the BOS an update on all things assessing and the Board as a whole had no questions for Ms. Martin. Mr. Carpenter is out of town and he had forwarded his question to Ms. Seaverns. His question dealt with the fact that a taxpayer brought up the issue of posted property to the Selectmen at their meeting last week. Ms. Seaverns had contacted Avitar for the handling of visiting posted properties. She explained that the public (FedEx, UPS, or contractors such as Avitar) has a right to travel down a driveway, unless gated. Once they arrive at the home, they knock on the door. If no one is home, they leave the property. If someone answers, and is willing to answer a few questions, this is what will take place. If they ask the individual to leave, they do. This issue came to light a few years ago as a result of an incident in Exeter involving an assessing individual that entered a property that was posted after he had been told to leave. She went on to explain that in this particular case, the taxpayer had answered questions at the door of the home. All were in agreement that a letter should be sent to the taxpayer clarifying the situation. Ms. Bonser stated she was in attendance to welcome Mr. Bock to the BOA and say how happy she was that he had decided to serve on the Board. She stated she hoped that the BOA as a whole would be more taxpayer friendly. Mr. Bock thanked Ms. Bonser. All were in agreement that any assessing issues should be brought to the BOA's attention through Ms. Seaverns so they can be acted on appropriately. The next scheduled joint meeting for the BOA, BOS & Ms. Martin is August 5, 2013. Ms. Bonser thanked the BOA for their time and left the meeting.

The Board then addressed the signature file.

Members signed an Intent to Cut for 2013 tax year for Map 23 Lot L2-taxes are current.

Members signed and approved an Elderly Exemption for Map 1 Lot 124.

Members denied an Elderly Exemption for Map 1 Lot 171, applicant's income exceeded limit.

Motion: Neuman, second Bock to issue the following 2012 tax year Timber Tax Levies:

Map 29 Lot 28 in the amount of \$ 964.14

Map 58 Lot 4 in the amount of \$ 277.45

Map 2 Lot 1 in the amount of \$ 207.89

Vote: 2-0 in favor. Members signed the certification sheets & the warrants.

Motion: Neuman, second Bock to deny the abatement for Map FAIR Lot 1 based on review and Avitar's recommendation.

Vote: 2-0 in favor. This property is under appeal in Superior Court for the 2011 tax year.

The Board next reviewed the correspondence file. Members reviewed a letter from Gary Roberge, Avitar Associates, in regard to the current appeal in Superior Court. Given the recent decision by the judge hearing the case, the members present agreed with Mr. Roberge & Attorney Upton that a settlement on the right of way portion of the assessment would be amenable, but not on the total value. The member also reviewed letters sent to all utilities regarding right of way information requested for assessing purposes. The Board reviewed and approved the April invoice from Avitar (\$1072.92 for contract assessing and \$1260 for data verification work).

Ms. Seaverns informed the members that the requalification process for the exemptions & credits was going well. There were two taxpayers that no longer qualify for the exemption as their income has increased over the limit. She reported that there are 4 pending abatements & 3 current use applications remaining. Ms. Martin will be forwarding her recommendations for the next meeting.

The Board will act on outstanding minutes at their next meeting.

Mr. Bock stated he would be out of town for the next scheduled meeting (6/3/13) so Ms. Seaverns suggested changing the meeting date to June 10, 2013. Neither Mr. Bock nor Mr. Neuman had a conflict with this date so as long as Mr. Reed can attend, the next BOA meeting will be June 10, 2013 at 7PM.

Having no further business,

7:07 PM **Motion:** Neuman, second Bock to adjourn.

Vote: 2-0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Seaverns

**Approved as amended
6/10/13**