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R. Lane Partridge, MAA
Director of Assessing

MINUTES OF BOARD OF ASSESSORS' MEETING
JANUARY 08, 2024

William Garreffi, Chairman called the Session to order at 4:45 p.m. in the Planning & Development Conference Room. In attendance was William Garreffi - Chairman; Andy Machado - Secretary; Mel Pauze - Board Member; R. Lane Partridge - Director; and Lisa Henderson - Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Garreffi-present; Machado-present; Pauze-present

GENERAL PUBLIC PRESENT: Town Councilor Craig Tamash, Mr. Powers, Karen Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Powers discussed his concerns regarding his own property as well as neighboring property values over the last couple years. He expressed how the process of filing an abatement was cumbersome and time consuming. Looking for consideration to not have to go through the exhausting process each year. Director Partridge and the Board explained that the abatement process is a legal process and if an abatement is filed, it will be reviewed.

Ms. Karen Smith expressed similar concerns with her property values over the last couple of years as well as the abatement process. Ms. Smith did acknowledge that the abatement process seems to be a fair mechanism, yet still voiced her concern of her properties seemingly overall excessive increases over the last couple of years. Once again Director Partridge and the Board reiterated the legal abatement process. Ms. Cheryl Powell voiced concerns regarding the preliminary tax billing problem as well as her property value. Director Partridge explained to Ms. Powell that it is the Treasurer/Collector she would need to speak with about any concerns regarding her tax bills and as far as her property values are concerned, she would need to submit an abatement.

DIRECTOR UPDATE: Values are complete and abatements are beginning to come in. Majority of abatements so far are the second home accounts due to the increase in values. We granted roughly 70% of the abatements in fiscal 2023 for an overall total of less than 1%. Our new field inspector has been on the road and learning the process and doing well. I am working with our vendor Munis to address some billing issues. Additionally, I have an upcoming meeting with our vendor Vision to discuss their involvement in the values and how to proceed in the upcoming certification year. Councilor Craig Tamash introduced himself as the new liaison to the Board of Assessors.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed accepting the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting.
There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting.
Vote was **UNANIMOUS** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting.

Garreffi-yes; Machado-yes; Pauze-yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion and a second to convene Executive Session for the following reasons:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A §21(a)(7), to comply with G.L. c. 59 §60 the Board of Assessors may vote to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to review, approve the minutes of the executive session held on November 13, 2023 and to review and approve the fiscal 2024 Actual Real Estate Commitments and Warrants, Motor Vehicle Commitment & Warrant, Monthly Reports, Statutory Exemption(s), Residential Exemption(s), 3ABC Charitable Exemptions & Chapter Land application(s), and abatement applications.

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Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21 (a)(3), the Board of Assessors may vote to go into Executive Session to review and discuss pending litigation strategy at the Appellate Tax Board.

If so voted, the Board will reconvene in Open Session.

Roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 5:35 PM.
Vote was **UNANIMOUS** to enter Executive Session.

Garreffi-yes; Machado-yes; Pauze-yes

The Board exited executive session at 5:52 PM.

The next Board of Assessors Meeting is tentatively scheduled for: **Monday February 12, 2024 4:45 pm in the Planning & Development Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM

Minutes prepared by Lisa Henderson under the supervision of Andy Machado - Secretary


Andy Machado - Secretary