

Sterling Board of Assessors  
Minutes to Meeting

September 23, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDEES: Don Murray, Michael Olson  
OTHER ATTENDEES: Evelyn McNamara, Harald Scheid,

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Signing of the payroll, payables, Cartographic Associates new Contract for the time period 9/18/2008 through 9/17/2009 for the Query Manager Software User Support.

Don made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike.  
All in favor, 2 ayes.

A request was made by a resident in the Town of Sterling whose husband recently deceased was a veteran with 100% disability, If she was eligible for the full exemption of her Real Estate Taxes for the 1<sup>st</sup> five years after her husband death. She was told by the Veteran office in Boston that she was. Harald has looked into the matter and has read and reread the Bulletin from 2006 that explained the new local tax exemptions for the Veterans. Harald placed a call to one of the DOR attorney's for clarification and was told that Spouse of the Disabled Veteran was entitled to the full exemption for 5 years.

Harald asked where the Board was regarding the proposal and quote that he presented at a previous Assessors' Meeting regarding the Personal Property valuation services Contract. Evelyn was to check with the Town Administrator for verification if it had to go out to bid or not. Evelyn will check with the Administrator when she returns from vacation.

Harald stated to the Board that his present 3 year contract will expire at the end of FY2009. Don and Mike both agreed to stay with Harald's Contractual Services for FY 2010. They requested Harald to present a new Contract for the Board to look over at the next meeting.

Harald stated he is presently working on the Interim Adjustments, he is working with a Gateway program which helps tremendously with adjusting the values.

For the 12 month sales period of July 2007 through June 30, 2008 the sales have dropped by 5%.

Per DOR the Town and Cities for FY2009 are to use calendar year 2007 sales to adjust the values. DOR recommends you should be between 90% and 110%. The charts indicates that we will see a greater drop in value on the older homes, newer and high end homes are remaining steady. Looking at the Recap of the last 12 months of sales we're

looking at being around the 93%. A decline of 6-7% on the average will be on the lower end homes.

Tax Collector Donna Erickson has requested if the Board would abate the outstanding Motor Vehicles Excise Bills for the years 1995,1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. The Collector's office and the Deputy Sheriff's office have tried everything to collect these old bills to no avail. If for some reason someone pays one these bills, the collector will have the bill re-committed. Don made the motion to abate the old excise tax bills per the request of the Tax Collector in the amount totaling \$13, 969.63, seconded by Mike.

A gentlemen from the Town brought in a completed Elderly Exemption form to submit for processing. Unfortunately, he will not be 70 years of age till July 2, 2008, the deadline is you have to be 70 by July 1<sup>st</sup> he has requested the Board to accept his application for the 1 day after the deadline. The Board discussed the issue, the law reads July 1<sup>st</sup> and we are unable to extend the date.

The Board had a request from a homeowner on Justice Hill Road on a Real Estate Abatement for 2008 they had applied for, they previously had an abatement for FY2007 which was denied and the owners forwarded their abatement to the ATB, but the case was settled by the Board in 2008 prior to the owners going to appear at the ATB. The Board agreed to grant the Real Estate Abatement for FY2008.

Mike inquired if a morning meeting would work for everyone, it was agreed that it could possible work. Next meeting will be Monday, October 20, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Motion made by Don to adjourn was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. 2 Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

