

Sterling Board of Assessors
Minutes to Meeting

July 7, 2008

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

Meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

Signing of the payroll, payables, Motor Vehicle and trailer excise abatement monthly turnovers. Administrative abatement on a FY 2008 Personal Property tax bill.
Cartographic Associates new Contract for 2008.

Don made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting, 2nd by Mike.
All in favor, 2 ayes.

After discussion regarding an administrative Personal Property abatement where the previous owners just up and left with their merchandise, motion was made by Don, 2nd by Mike to abate the tax bill in full.

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 1st 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 states the interpretation of this change by DOR is very misleading and confusing. Harald will place a call to one of the DOR attorney's to clarify this issue and get back to the homeowner.

Harald presented his proposal and quotation in response to the Board's request for Personal Property valuation services. After going over the proposal Don made the motion to accept the proposal and quote from Regional Resource Group, 2nd by Mike.

Harald also presented the Interim Revaluation – Sales Period Report he has been working on. Per DOR Harald is using the market sales for the calendar year 2007. The Median on the single family homes is now at 96.6% were in years past it was at 93%, which results in almost a 4% loss in values.

The charts are indicating that we will see a greater drop in value on the older homes, new and high end homes are remaining steady, condo's staying just below 96% very few sales, Commercial/ Industrail also not a lot of sales found.

Motion made by Mike to adjoin was 2nd by Don. 2 Ayes

Meeting adjoined at 7:25 pm

