

Sterling Board of Assessors
Room 109, Butterick Municipal Building, 1 Park St., Sterling MA 01564
Minutes of Meeting July 17, 2017

Present: Donlin Murray (Don), Chairman
Robert Cutler (Bob), Vice Chairman
Richard Sheppard (Dick), Clerk
Harald Scheid (Harald), Regional Assessor
Becky Boucher (Becky), Associate Regional Assessor
Debbie Dreyer (Debbie) Assistant to the Assessor

Meeting Opened at 7:30am

Roll Call & Approval of Agenda

Cutler present, Sheppard present, Murray present - along with Debbie, Becky & Harald

MOTION: Dick made a motion to accept the agenda, 2nd by Bob, all in favor, aye.

Payroll, Payables, any abatements, warrants signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: Bob made a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes (6/19/2017) 2nd by Dick, all in favor, aye.

Per 6/19/2017 Mtg Minutes/EdBonnell: Don Spoke with Ed this weekend & explained that the town was not responsible for damage he does to his truck, only for any injuries he might incur. Ed expressed disappointment that we couldn't do more for him. He knows we're looking into getting usage of the Town vehicle the Bldg dept uses – he didn't say yes or no to this. It seems like it's going to be difficult to adjust our schedule with theirs. Until all the details can be worked out, we need to do something for the 200 inspections that need to be done now. Harald asked Ed last week what he wanted to do – he still wanted to wait till the Board discusses it at their meeting & will decide then. Someone needs to contact Ed again & let him know we're trying to get a schedule going with the Bldg Dept, meanwhile Harald will put together a proposal on the cost (about \$6,000 for now till the end of the year) would be for RRG taking over the inspections. Don will talk to the Town Administrator.

Query Manager annual review - \$500 yearly. With our online GIS we have the ability to do an abutters' list – Debbie will try it out & see if it works just as well as Query Mgr, report back at our next mtg & at that time the Board will decide if we want to cancel Query Mgr.

Executive Session

Vote: Executive Session

8:12 EXECUTIVE SESSION - Bob made a **Motion** to go into executive session under M.G.L. C59; S60 & M.G.L. 214 S1B, Clause(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law: ~ for the purpose of reviewing personal exemption or abatement applications & their supporting documentation so that personally identifiable confidential information shall not be made public. 2nd by Dick, all in favor aye

Roll Call Vote: Sheppard aye, Cutler aye, Murray aye

The Board adjourned Executive session at 8:20am and reconvened in public session at 8:21am.

Contract Regional Assessor (RRG) Update

Interim year property adjustments: Becky presented an Omitted & Revised report to the Board along with a Fall Financial Schedule for their review. Our interim year property adjustments were about 5-6% too low (property values on the residential side). Sale prices came in a lot higher than the assessment. Contributing factors include huge shortage of housing, people scrambling to take advantage of low interest rates & people being priced out & moving to more affordable areas like Sterling. Harald suggested make a comparable increase in commercial.

MOTION: Bob made a motion to adjust the property rates by 5%, 2nd by Dick, all in favor aye

Chapter letter & application review: Becky presented the current Chapter letter & application to the Board for review & to discuss any changes if needed before being mailed out. A few minor changes in wording were made to the letter & application & they're now ready for mailing.

Future agenda items: Permit inspections, Ed, Query Mgr, annual motion to have the Board authorize Harald & Becky to sign approval in Gateway

Next meeting: Monday Aug 21 @7:30am

Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting @8:50am, 2nd by Bob, all in favor aye.

Respectfully submitted by
Debbie Dreyer Assistant to the Assessor