

Sterling Board of Assessors
Room 109, Butterick Municipal Building, 1 Park St., Sterling MA 01564
Minutes of Meeting October 17, 2016

Present: Donlin Murray (Don), Chairman
Richard Sheppard (Dick), Clerk
Rebecca Boucher (Becky), Associate Regional Assessor
Debbie Dreyer (Debbie) Assistant to the Assessor

Meeting Opened at 7:45am

Roll Call & Approval of Agenda

Sheppard present, Murray present - along with Rebecca Boucher & Debbie Dreyer

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

Any Payroll, Payables, abatements, warrants were signed.

NEW BUSINESS

Review & approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Dick made a motion to accept the 9/19/16 meeting minutes with one typo correction, 2nd by Don, all in favor – aye.

Statutory Exemption list approved & signed

Contract Regional Assessor (RRG) Update

Vote for Classification – Becky presented a draft FY17 Tax Classification Hearing brochure for the Board's review. Becky still needs data from the Town Accountant – without those financials she can't complete the calculations to determine the new tax rate. The Board discussed whether to recommend a single or split tax rate – it would take a large shift in commercial/industrial taxes to yield a modest residential tax reduction.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen a single tax rate, 2nd by Don, all in favor aye.

Signatures/Gateway – The Board signed all the appropriate paperwork required for Gateway.

Review Chapter Applications – Becky presented a brief overview of the status of the returned applications – response has been very good. Only four have not filed their FY18 applications & four are incomplete - letters will be sent to each. Two owners have partially or completely removed land from Chapter. We will continue to examine any applications where there have been changes, make decisions on them and address any owners who do not respond to our letters in a timely manner.

Commercial Inspections – Don was going to speak to the Finance Committee to see if we could have \$500 to cover the commercial inspections. It was decided that we'll put this in the new budget & wait to do the inspections in the new fiscal year.

Next meeting: Monday, Nov. 21st @ 7:30am / *Agenda for next mtg: Chapter land review, discuss new tax rate*

Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting @8:35am, 2nd by Don, all in favor aye.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Dreyer
Assistant to the Assessor

Attachment: Fiscal Year 2017 Tax Classification Hearing