

Freetown Board of Assessors
Minutes of Monday, November 21, 2022
Virtual Meeting – Zoom.us

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2022 DEC 22 AM 10:32

Present: Jeff Field and Mike Motta were present via Zoom; Paul Sadeck was present at the Town Hall.

Absent: None.

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was recorded by Mr. Sadeck.

All votes taken during this meeting were by roll call.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Sadeck, to enter into executive session to comply with the provisions of any general or special law; specifically, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's litigating position, namely Marie's Way Solar 1, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown and Braley Road Solar 4, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown; and to return to open session afterward. When polled, the members voted as follows: Field – Aye, Motta – Aye, Sadeck – Aye.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Sadeck, seconded by Mr. Field, to approve the minutes of the meetings held November 14, 2022, and October 27, 2022, both the open and executive sessions, but not to release the minutes of the Executive sessions. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- ♦ The new clerk, Deanna Hayes, should be starting with the town on or about December 12th. She'll spend the first few weeks with the Building Department before beginning her split schedule.

New Business

- ♦ The Assistant Assessor recommended that the drafting table formerly in the office be declared surplus. The table was removed when the new counter was put in; it was offered to all other departments in the town hall, and none had a use for it (or room for it if they did have a use). One employee in another department was interested in the possibility of purchasing the table. A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Sadeck, to declare the table surplus and refer the matter to the Board of Selectmen. The motion carried unanimously.
- ♦ Fees charges for abutters lists in Freetown and 26 other cities and towns in Bristol and Plymouth counties were reviewed. The current fee in Freetown is \$10.00, and the majority of the other cities and towns were at \$25.00, with a few having a combination of a flat fee and then per-page fee or flat fee plus additional over a certain number of parcels. After much discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Sadeck, seconded by Mr. Field, to leave the fee at \$10.00. The motion carried unanimously.

- ♦ The Assistant Assessor discussed a mailing instructing businesses to file their Form of List by e-mail instead of on paper. Efforts over the last two years have reduced mailings by approximately 130, as businesses are sent the form electronically when an e-mail address is on file. The current goal is to eliminate paper filings since there is no need for them and they only result in added work and wasted space scanning, storing, etc. Mr. Motta cautioned to make sure any mailing contains the correct language.
- ♦ The Assessors were originally to hire Sansoucy Associates to assist with defending our values in the ongoing solar-related Appellate Tax Board cases; however, KP Law will now hire Sansoucy Associates to streamline billing, etc. A motion was made by Mr. Sadeck, seconded by Mr. Field, to have KP Law hire Sansoucy Associates. The motion carried unanimously.

Results of Executive Session

There were no decisions rendered to report.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

No items were taken up under this heading.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Motta, seconded by Mr. Sadeck, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Assistant Assessor