

2023 OCT 18 AM 10:39

**Freetown Board of Assessors**  
Minutes of Monday, August 14, 2023  
Virtual Meeting – Zoom.us

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

**Absent:** None.

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:03 p.m. The meeting was recorded by Mr. Sadeck.

All votes taken during this meeting were by roll call.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Motta, to approve the minutes of June 22, 2023, both Open and Executive sessions, but not to release the Executive Session minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

No items were taken up under this heading.

**New Business**

Brief discussion was held on M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17F, which reads as follows: "Notwithstanding any provision of general or special law to the contrary, an abatement granted pursuant to clause [...] Seventeenth D may be increased annually at the discretion of a city or town by an amount not to exceed the increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index for such year. This clause shall take effect in a city or town upon its acceptance by such city or town." Similar to other items to appear on the October special town meeting warrant, this would assist homeowners who qualify under Clause 17D by incrementally increasing the exemption amount (currently \$175.00) as dictated by the CPI. The Department of Revenue issues an annual bulletin declaring the CPI percentage. A motion was made by Mr. Motta, seconded by Mr. Field, to put the article forward for October. The motion carried unanimously.

**Any Other Business Properly Before the Board**

Discussion was held on whether to increase the asset limits under Clause 41C. An article has already been put forward for October to adopt an incremental increase similar to Clause 17F as discussed above, but we have not maxed out the allowable limit under the law; in other words, should we increase to the maximum before increasing incrementally? A motion was made by Mr. Motta, seconded by Mr. Field, to increase the asset limits to the maximum of \$40,000.00 for a single person and \$55,000.00 for a married couple. The motion carried unanimously. The Assistant Assessor noted that this would need to be voted on again at a future meeting as it had not been on the agenda, but the deadline to submit articles would occur before the next likely meeting date.

Mr. Sadeck asked about the status of the PILOT agreements. Atty. Jeff Blake continues to work on nailing the existing agreements down, and on negotiating additional agreements as they arise.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Motta, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Assessor