

Freetown Board of Assessors
Minutes of Monday, September 21, 2020
Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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2020 OCT -5 AM 9:49

J. Brown

Present: Jeff Field and Sue Parker. Mike Motta joined by telephone.

Guests: Atty. Jeff Blake.

Call to order: Sue Parker called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

Note: As Mr. Motta participated remotely, all votes taken were by roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were prepared but not acted upon.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mrs. Parker, to enter into executive session to comply with the provisions of any general or special law; specifically, to discuss Real Estate and Personal Property abatement applications which are not open to public inspection (per M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 60); and also to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's litigating position, specifically Marie's Way Solar 1, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown; Braley Road Solar 4, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown; and SunRaise Investments, 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, Parker – Aye, Motta – Aye.

Results of Executive Session

There were no decisions to announce following the executive session.

Report of Assistant Assessor

- a. The RFP responses for FY21-23 revaluation were due September 17th. pkValuation Group was the only respondent. The Board of Selectmen were scheduled to approve and sign the agreement at their meeting happening contemporaneously. Consensus among the Assessors was that this was acceptable.
- b. Discussion was held on altering supplemental budget requests to match recommended figures, however, the conversation drifted and no vote was actually taken. Mrs. Parker asked if Ellen Blanchard would be returning to help this year, and the clerk responded affirmatively. Mr. Motta discussed companies that engage in "change detection" – they will fly over a town and use aerial photography to detect any additions or improvements on properties that may otherwise not be detected. He felt money left over after consulting fees were paid could be used to implement such a system. Mrs. Parker and Mr. Field agreed it was a tool worth investigating.
- c. Income and asset limits for exemptions under Clause 41C and deferral under Clause 41A were reviewed. A survey of area towns will be conducted to see where we line up. Mrs. Parker asked the deadline for this – the clerk responded that it would require town meeting action to make any changes, so there would be plenty of time.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

No items were taken up under this section.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mrs. Parker, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

This is a True Record by me. Attest: _____, Assistant Assessor