

**Present:** Jeff Field and Paul Sadeck were present at the Town Hall.

**Absent:** Mike Motta.

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:18 p.m. All votes taken during this meeting were by roll call.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

### **New Business**

- ♦ The Assistant Assessor presented the proposed FY25 budget. Within the Board of Assessors budget, there were minor increases and decreases in particular lines. Overall, the budget would increase \$45.00. The personnel section of the budget is level-funded from FY24 as requested by the Town Administrator, reflecting the fact that new pay rates have not yet been established.

At this time, Mr. Sadeck raised concerns with the pay rate for the Assistant Assessor. He clarified that he did this on his own, and not as the result of any complaint or prompting from the Assistant Assessor. He felt the pay rate for the position is too low given the responsibilities and the level of knowledge and experience of the present assistant. He was concerned that should the present assistant ever decide to leave, it would not be possible to replace him with the current pay scale. As Mr. Field was starting to add to the conversation, Deb Pettey, Town Administrator, happened by. Mr. Sadeck engaged Ms. Pettey in the discussion. Mr. Field, Mr. Sadeck, and Ms. Pettey then discussed the matter for a few moments. Following this, a motion was made by Mr. Sadeck, seconded by Mr. Field, to draw up a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating the case for a pay rate commensurate with the responsibilities of the position and experience of the present assistant. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was then made by Mr. Sadeck, seconded by Mr. Field, to submit the budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- ♦ Continued discussion was again held on the PILOT agreements for 107 Chace Road, 164 Quanapoag Road, and 1 Nick Drive. Assurances had been received from Atty. Jeff Blake that the agreements were correct at 18 years and in the correct form. A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Sadeck, to approve the agreements subject to the pending Appellate Tax Board cases being withdrawn by the appellant, DH-MA Solar 1, LLC. The motion carried unanimously.
- ♦ No further requests for extensions of the time to file the Form of List had been received since the last meeting.

### **Any Other Business Properly Before the Board**

The Assistant Assessor noted that the deadline to file for real estate and personal property tax abatements had passed on February 1st. Only three applications were received this year.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Sadeck, seconded by Mr. Field, 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, DH-MA Solar 1, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown, Bullock Solar 1, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown, SunRaise Investments, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown, Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. vs.

Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown, and Renewable Energy Alternatives, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown; and also, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law; specifically, to discuss Real Estate and Personal Property exemption and/or abatement applications which are not open to public inspection (per M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 60) and to discuss Returns of Property Held for Charitable Purposes which are not open to public inspection (per M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 32); and to return to open session afterward. When polled, the members voted as follows: Field – Aye, Motta – Absent, Sadeck – Aye.

### **Results of Executive Session**

Results of decisions made were announced as follows:

- |      |                                 |  |
|------|---------------------------------|--|
| #002 | 53 Lakeview Lane, East Freetown | Granted. Value reduced \$64,118 to follow FY23 Appellate Tax Board decision not reflected in FY24 value. |
| #003 | 1 Pleasant Street, Assonet      | Granted. Value reduced \$29,600 to account for changes and conditions not reflected in FY24 value.       |

### **Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mr. Sadeck, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

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