

Freetown Board of Assessors
Minutes of Tuesday, January 14, 2020
Map Room – Town Hall – Assonet, Mass.

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK

2020 JAN 29 PM 7:49

J. Brown

Present: Jeff Field, Mike Motta, and Sue Parker.

Call to order: Mike Motta called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Field, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Real Estate or Personal Property Abatement Applications

The clerk noted there have been four applications to date. The Assessors reviewed and acted upon two of those applications, both for qualifying in-law apartments:

- #1 10 Spencer Way, East Freetown
- #3 1 River's Edge Way, Assonet

A motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Field, to grant both abatements. The motion carried unanimously.

Recent Real Estate Sales of Interest

Discussion was held on the recent sale of Riverfront Business Park to Copart of Connecticut. The clerk and Mr. Motta described the process by which the sale will be reviewed and the property value adjusted as needed. Mr. Motta noted that because the sale prices was nearly seven times the assessment, the sale would result in an across-the-board review of industrial properties when preparing FY21 values.

Any Other Business Properly Before the Board

Two items were taken up under this heading:

- Mr. Motta reviewed his discussion with the Selectmen on January 6th related to the Assessors' FY21 budget and the formal elimination of the Farm Animal Excise tax.
- The clerk reviewed information provided by J Sarcia regarding the proposed "Freetown-Lakeville Lake District" that is being proposed at the Special Town Meeting on February 15th. The Assessors discussed the pros and cons of the proposal as they understand it. A motion was made by Mr. Field, seconded by Mrs. Parker, to meet on Tuesday, January 28th at 5:30 p.m. and to invite Mr. Sarcia to the meeting.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Field, to enter into executive session 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*; and *Braley Road*

Solar 4, LLC vs. Board of Assessors of the Town of Freetown, and not to return to open session afterward. When polled, the members voted as follows: Motta – Aye, Parker – Aye, Field – Aye.

Meeting Adjourned

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, a motion was made by Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Field, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Senior Clerk