

MINUTES  
TOWN OF MONTAGUE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT  
1 Avenue A (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Turners Falls, MA  
**November 19, 2018**

A meeting of the Montague Board of Assessors was held on Monday, November 19, 2018.

Assessors present: Chairman Paul Emery, Teresa Miner, Ann Cenzano and Karen Tonelli, Director of Assessing. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the following correction – remove Karen Greene’s name from the attendance listing for the Montague Center Fire District as she was not present. The Board voted unanimously.

The Assessors signed monthly summaries for October 2018 indicating motor vehicle abatements issued totaling \$736.16. There were no real or personal abatements/exemptions issued in October, 2018.

The Assessors denied an application for MVE abatement filed by Honda Lease Trust.

The Assessors signed recommitments for MVE bills at the request of the Tax Collector as follows: 2001 \$19.27, 2002 \$46.25, 2003 \$46.25 and 2014 \$123.96.

The Assessors reviewed documentation regarding a Senior Exemption Application submitted by Helen and Christopher Doolittle. The Board voted to deny due to lack of qualification. The Assessors also reviewed a second Veteran’s exemption application submitted by Kristen Timberlake due to a change in disability. The Board approved a 100% disability Clause 22E.

The Assessors discussed Chapter 59 Section 38D statute and the penalties that are placed on those that do not respond. Karen informed the board of the MAAO’s push to change the legislation to increase the penalty amounts. Past practice in Montague has been to not apply the penalty and there was some discussion about changing the policy in the future. No decision was made at this time. The issue will be addressed again in the future after reviewing specific data on the number of taxpayers who do not respond and whether or not there is a pattern of non-responsiveness.

The Board reviewed the draft FY20 budget which includes an increase in the Board members stipend. There were questions about the difference in increase between the Chair and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> members. Karen will ask Carolyn Olsen or John Hanold for clarification and the difference and whether or not the same increases were suggested for the Board for Selectmen.

The Assessors meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen M. Tonelli, M.A.A.  
Director of Assessor

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_

**List of Documents**

Monthly Summaries – October, 2018  
MVE Recommitments  
Exemptions Applications w/documentation (2)  
MVE Application/Denial