

Executive Session Minutes
Town of Montague Assessors' Department
1 Avenue A (2nd Floor), Turners Falls, MA
July 28, 2014

Members Present: Paul Emery, Betty Waidlich, Teresa Miner
Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing
Meeting convened 3:31 p.m.

- Abatements

- Ms. Miller explained to the Board that a telephone conference took place on Wednesday, July 23, 2014. During the phone call Ms. Sydney Free made a counter offer of \$90 million for the combined valuation of all FirstLight parcels in Montague and Gill. Ms. Miller informed the board that an email had been sent Paul Bellon of Duff and Phelps, Sydney Free of FirstLight Hydro Generation, and Attorney Daniel Finnegan express the need for time to consider the offer. She expressed the likelihood that the Board of Assessors would be denying the abatements at this meeting in order to meet the deadline of July 29th and explained that the denial did not preclude the negotiations from continuing.
 - **Parcel Id 08-0-1, 15 Cabot Street** – Motion made by Ms. Waidlich to deny. Second by Ms. Miner, vote unanimous.
 - **Parcel Id 05-0-151, 26 Power Street** – Motion made by Ms. Waidlich to deny. Second by Ms. Miner, vote unanimous.
 - **Personal Property Account Number 538** – Motion made by Ms. Waidlich to deny. Second by Ms. Miner, vote unanimous.
- Ms. Miller advised the board that the executive session with the Selectboard tonight was set for 8:40 p.m. Mr. Emery plans to attend with Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller provided the board members with a spreadsheet indicating the likely increases to the residential and commercial tax rates based on possible settlement agreements with FirstLight. Ms. Miller expressed her opinion that any settlement number below \$108 million for the Town of Montague which is a total valuation of approximately \$121 million for both communities (that's assuming Gill will take a reduction to \$13 million) was unacceptable and at that point they should allow it to go to the ATB. All board members agreed. No vote was taken as this was for discussion purposes.

Meeting Adjourned 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Miller
Director of Assessing

Minutes approved



OK to release. Ann M. Cenzano