

MINUTES
TOWN OF MONTAGUE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT
1 Avenue A (2nd Floor) Turners Falls, MA
February 26, 2018

A meeting of the Montague Board of Assessors was held on Monday, February 26, 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 (both sets) as printed. The Board voted unanimously.

Time sheets for the Director of Assessing were signed and approved by the Chairman.

The Assessors reviewed correspondence from Atty. Nathaniel Tripp regarding Request for Waiver of Right of First Refusal to Selectmen dated February 7, 2018. The Assessors also reviewed correspondence from Peter Goldrick regarding JaDuke dated 2/22/18.

The Board members reviewed and signed a List of Uncollectible Personal Property Taxes for 2015 as follows: Town of Montague \$1,523.10; TFFD \$228.73; MCFD \$6.25 and MLD .41.

The Board members had a discussion concerning the sharing of costs with the Town of Gill regarding the Firstlight cases and appraisals. This issue was discussed at previous meeting (August 21, 2017). There had been confusion as to whether the split was 90/10 (90% Montague) or 80/20 (80% Montague) and the Gill Assessors Chairman, Bill Tomb, had expressed his concern over the 80/20 split that was used for the most recent legal bill for post-trial work done on this case. He asked Atty. Hutchinson to resubmit her bill with a 10% adjustment allowing for an hourly rate for legal services to be \$17.50 (10% of 175.00). Paul asked about the length of the agreement to split costs. Karen spoke with Atty. Hutchinson who agreed that work for the FY2014 matter has been finalized and that any legal work performed now will be for the remaining cases (FY15-FY17). It was noted that these cases were not even appealed at the time of the costs sharing discussion with Gill took place between them and the previous Director of Assessing. Karen will email the Gill Assessors (and copy Atty. Hutchinson) to clarify our position that the prior arrangement is no longer viable and we will not be sharing legal or appraisal services going forward. Paul Emery will follow up with a telephone call to Chairman Bill Tomb.

The regular session meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:_____

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

List of Documents

Time Sheets

Correspondence

Certificate of Abatement of Uncollectible Taxes

Various emails from Gill Board of Assessors re: Firstlight costs