

MINUTES
TOWN OF MONTAGUE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Second Floor Conference Room - Montague Town Hall - 1 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA
JANUARY 4, 2021

A meeting of the Montague Board of Assessors was held on Monday, January 4, 2021. Assessors present: Chairman Paul Emery, Ann Cenzano, Barbara Alconada and Karen Tonelli, Director of Assessing. The meeting was available to members of the public via Zoom. After experiencing some technical difficulties with the internet connection, Chairman Emery called the meeting to order at approximately 3:55 p.m.

Participating remotely were Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Henry Komosa, Mike Walsh and Stacy Galore.

The Board members each identified themselves by speaking their names out loud.

Upon a motion that made and seconded, it was vote to accept the regular session and executive session minutes of the previous meeting as printed.

Paul Emery made a motion to discuss Komosa's modification request.

Mr. Komosa spoke about his Chapter 61 Application that had been denied by the Board. He stated he uses 5.6 acres to harvest hay and the land had been classified under Chapter 61A with no issues since 2011. He wanted to know why it was denied. Paul Emery responded by referencing a map that indicated approximately 3.6 acres is hay/grass. Mr. Komosa admitted that there were steep banks on the property but that he hayed most of the land. Ann Cenzano said that her reading of the statute required "at least" five acres be "actively devoted" to agricultural/horticultural use and that she did not believe that he qualifies. Mr. Komosa questioned why it was approved in the past. Karen stated that last year's application included a parcel that had since been removed from Chapter by Mr. Komosa's request. Neither Mike Walsh or Stacy Calore spoke.

Chairman Emery made a motion to disallow the modification. Ann Cenzano seconded the motion and all assessors voted in favor.

The Board signed a Denial for Motor Vehicle Excise 2020 #28 as it was a duplicate submission.

The Board signed State Tax Form 1 (Form of Lists) for Fy2022

Karen addressed Stacy Calore and asked if she wanted to speak to the Board. She responded by typing that she was on a public computer and could not speak. She was asked mute her microphone due to background noise coming from computer that was distracting the meeting.

The Board reviewed a proposal submitted by Pioneer Valuation for services related to the upcoming certification. Karen stated that she could benefit from assistance specific to providing the numerous reports required by the DOR especially in light of having one less person in the office. Barbara asked if we would need to request funds for this and Karen responded that she believes there would be sufficient funds in our budget.

The board signed the monthly list of abatement/exemptions issued in December, 2020.

Karen suggested that we hold off on scheduling any meetings in January or February due to the COVID crises. It was agreed that Karen will contact board members in mid-February to discuss the next meeting date.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Emery and seconded by Assessor Genzano, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen M. Tonelli, M.A.A.

Approved:_____

List of Documents

Various documents in Komosa Chapter file
MVE Denial 2020 #28
State Tax Form 1
Pioneer Valley Bid for Services
Monthly summary lists of abatements/exemption