

Town of Montague Board of Assessors Meeting Agenda

Date: 7/14/25

Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, Second Floor Conference Room.
Executive Session to be held in the Assessor's Office.

Chairperson's Statement: This meeting is being recorded by the Board of Assessors. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time.

Call to Order

Roll call of members

Review and Approve previous meeting minutes

Review and approve the meeting minutes from the Board of Assessors Meeting on June 30th, 2025.

New Business

1) Discussion of the "HERO" Act

- a. Board to discuss Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024, known as the "HERO" Act including the current impact on the town's motor vehicle excise exemptions as well as the potential adoption of Section 23 of said statute which includes Clause I as well as Clause J described herein:
 - i. Clause I: If adopted would increase the tax exemption given to veterans under Clause 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, and 22F by an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) as determined by the Department of Revenue (DOR) based on the consumer price index (CPI).
 - ii. Clause J: If adopted would provide an additional exemption amount for all granted veteran exemptions by up to 100%. This additional exemption cannot reduce the tax owed below what the taxpayer would owe on 10% of the current assessed valuation of the parcel.

2) Review of the Assessing Calendar, July 2025

- a. Board to discuss the goals and deadlines for the Assessing Office in the month of July 2025. This includes the updating of form LA13A as well as the omit/revised assessment report submitted through the Division of Local Services (DLS) Gateway.
- b. Board to discuss the data collection timeline for fiscal year (FY) 2026 reassessment purposes. This includes the status of permit inspections as well as the cyclical inspection initiative.

3) Board to Sign DLS Gateway Authorization Document

- a. Board to discuss signing a document granting authority for Director of Assessing Adam Tocci to sign and upload forms to the DLS Gateway on behalf of the board.
- b. Additional check-in with all members of the Board to ensure that parties have access to their respective DLS Gateway accounts.

4) State Class Code 504 Property Valuations

- a. Board to discuss the potential of hiring subject matter experts at Sansoucy to assist in the valuation of personal property accounts classed under land use code 504 which includes utility, telephone, and pipeline corporations.

Old Business

1) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)- Judd Wire Discussion

- a. Board to discuss the valuation approach in regard to the newly proposed BESS installation as proposed by Judd Wire.
 - i. This will constitute a preliminary discussion as meetings with the Town Administrator are pending which could alter the timeline as well as methodology by which we approach the valuation of this proposed development.

2) Board of Assessor Meeting Times

- a. Board to discuss the timelines for future board of assessor meetings including the potential establishment of a standing meeting.

3) Kearsarge Energy Abatement Application and Negotiation

- a. Vote/roll call to enter into executive session under purpose #7 to comply with, or act under the authority of, and general law (Chapter 59 section 60) pursuant to M.G.L. c 30A Sec 21 (a)(7) to vote to accept previous Executive Session minutes and to take action on abatements and further under Purpose #3 pursuant to G.L. c 30A Sec 21 (a) (3) to discuss litigation regarding Kearsarge and if an open meeting may be detrimental to the town's position. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

Next meeting Dates: To be determined

A recording of this meeting along with the meeting minutes will be posted to the following link within a week of the conclusion of this meeting:

<https://montague-ma.gov/g/49/Board-of-Assessors>

Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE CALLED

**Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the time of posting, however, the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice. Posted in accordance with M.G.L. c 30A § 18-255.*