



Town of West Tisbury
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
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February 6, 2024

Open Session Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Michael Colaneri (Chair), Maria McFarland (arrived before Budget agenda item), and Lawrence Schubert

Also Present: MacGregor Anderson (Principal Assessor)

The meeting convened at 4:30 P.M.

All votes were roll call votes due to the remote nature of the meeting.

Minutes 12/19/23 and 1/16/24

The Board voted to approve the minutes: of the 12/19 and 1/16 meetings
Schubert yes, Colaneri

Abutters Lists

The Board voted to certify the abutters lists: Schubert yes, Colaneri yes

MV Excise Warrants and Commitments

2023-7

218 bills totaling \$9,448.98

2 exempt totaling \$182.97

2024-1

4910 bills totaling \$680,866.48

71 exempt totaling \$13,215.17

The Board voted to approve the Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments: Schubert

yes, Colaneri yes

Assessors Revised Budget to allow for addition of an 18 hour a week administrative assistant

Mr. Anderson explained to the Board that he'd added the 18 hour a week administrative assistant to the budget using grade 3 step 2, despite plans to hire at step 1. He said that Bruce Stone, Town Accountant, advised using step 2 for budgeting purposes since the hire could occur before FY25, given excess funds in the FY24 Personal Services account for the assessors.

Mr. Anderson said there would be a warrant article from the Personnel Board at Town Meeting because the administrative assistant position is not part of the most recent classification plan. Ms. McFarland confirmed this.

Mr. Colaneri reminded the Board that there had been an administrative assistant for many years, but the department had been reduced to two people about a decade earlier. Mr. Anderson said that had served the Town well at that time and for many years after, but that with the growth in the Town and in complex building permits, the data collection work doesn't give the data collector time to do the administrative work. He explained that he had taken on much of the administrative work that the Data Collector/Assistant Assessor had been doing to prioritize the data collection efforts.

The Board voted to submit the revised budget: McFarland yes, Schubert yes, Colaneri yes

Overview of PILOTs (Payment in Lieu of taxes), Affordable Rental Exemption (MGL ch 59 sec 50) and Residential Exemption (MGL ch 59 sec 5C) – follow up

Mr. Colaneri thanked Mr. Schubert and Mr. Anderson for putting together the materials, saying it was well organized and well done. He said he had one reservation with the PILOT overview.

Mr. Colaneri explained that despite the edits that had already been done to

deemphasize the Boston model, he felt that some of the remaining Boston specifics were not in line with the purpose of the paper. In particular, he said the focus on the \$15 million-dollar value cutoff was not relevant to the situation in West Tisbury, and that further, he felt all exempt institutions should contribute, even if it amounted to little more than a token amounts.

Mr. Anderson explained that he felt the Boston framework could give a starting point for the Town, and that the \$15 million-dollar limit would likely be changed. However, he felt Mr. Colaneri's point that the Town should consider asking all exempt organizations to contribute was also perfectly valid.

Mr. Schubert suggested a small edit that met Mr. Colaneri's goal. Mr. Anderson read the full report and suggested a second edit to be consistent. In both cases, the purpose of the edits was to remove the suggestion of a value limit.

The Board agreed to this approach and decided that the next step was to approve all overviews, with the PILOT amended, along with the budget and staffing requirements. They asked Mr. Anderson to submit the materials to the Select Board and request a joint meeting in a few weeks, allowing time for the Select Board to read the reports.

The Board voted to approve the materials as amended and request a joint meeting: McFarland yes, Schubert yes, Colaneri yes

Executive Session

Motion to enter into executive session and not to return to open session under Chapter 30 A Section 21 (a) 3, 6 and 7

The Board will enter executive session in order to discuss litigation (3), the valuation of property (6), and applications deemed confidential under MGL CH 59 sec 60 (7)

The Board voted to enter executive session to discuss the topics below and not return to open session: McFaland yes, Schubert yes, Colaneri yes

- 1) FY24 Exemptions
- 2) FY24 Abatements

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

MacGregor Anderson, MAA

Principal Assessor

Approved: 2/20/2024