SANDWICH BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors meeting is called to order at 4:32 p.m.

PRESENT: Robert James, Chair; Nick Fernandes, Vice Chair; Larry Harrington, Member; Ed Childs, Director of Assessing and Laura Watts, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Harrington motions to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 1/21/2020 as written. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. James abstains. The motion is approved.

Mr. Fernandes motions to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 2/4/2020 as written. Mr. James seconds. The vote is unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM: NONE

DIRECTOR OF ASSESSING REPORT:

1. The office received a total of seventy-one real estate abatements and twenty-two personal property abatements for FY 2020. Fifteen of these have been reviewed thus far. The remainder will be done in a timely manner. Two hundred sixty-one exemptions have been processed in 2020 with another thirty-five for review and approval tonight. These have been primarily disabled veteran and elderly applications.

2. Mr. Childs had a meeting on Monday 2/24 with Mr. David Darling to discuss pushing the standards for the clause 41C elderly exemption. Mr. Childs’ main concern was that Mr. Darling was not citing income and asset limits. After the meeting, he was generally pleased that he and Mr. Darling were pretty much on the same page. At the Board’s next meeting, he would like to present research and findings to support an increase in the reward amount. He would like the Board to draft language for a warrant article for Town Meeting. Clause 41C was adopted in 1990 and the income and asset limits have not changed. If possible, Mr. Childs would also like the clause to include a cost of living adjustment annually. Mr. James will not be in attendance, but he would like to remote in from Florida. Since there will be 2/3 of the Board present, Mr. Childs feels this should work.

3. The FY 2021 preliminary billing will include the addition of the Waste Water Infrastructure Investment Fund (WIIF). The CPA tax will be reduced to 2%. The WIIF tax will also be 2% and shown as a separate tax on the real estate bills. All work and data entries will be completed by 6/8 and calculations will be done 6/9-6/11. The 3rd and 4th quarter actual data entry will be completed mid-October with the classification hearing scheduled for 11/5. The commitment will be run the first week of December which will give the Tax Collector ample time to prepare the bills.

4. Mr. Childs will have a more detailed discussion at the Board’s next meeting on sales outlook and the 2019 preliminary sales report. The indicated value for Canal Unit 3 will drop in years 2-5.
5. 20,461 motor vehicle excise bills were issued on 2/21 and this has produced a steady stream of tax payers into the office filing for abatements. The Barnstable County Assessor’s Association will be hosting a training workshop on 3/20 for the new RMV Atlas software. Mr. Childs and Ms. Watts will be attending.

6. Mr. Childs will have a presentation in the spring for a new GIS software purchase. Chris Wilcox, Massachusetts Assessing Association President, has shown Mr. Childs 2-3 possibilities that would allow the department to do GIS updates in house.

REVIEW & SIGN ANY SIGNATURE ITEMS:

- Revised FY 2020 pilot payment for Canal Units 1 & 2 - $37,057.35
- Revised FY 2020 pilot payments for Canal Unit 3 - $157,324.73

REVIEW ABATEMENTS/EXEMPTIONS:

Mr. Harrington motions to enter into Executive Session at 4:59 p.m. to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 21(a)(7) and M.G.L. Ch. 59 § 60 for the purpose of discussing abatements and exemptions and to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 22(f) for the review, potential approval and potential release of Executive Session meeting minutes from 1/21/2020 & 2/4/2020. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Harrington and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The Board reconvenes in Open Session at 5:20 p.m.

OTHER MATTER NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED:

The Board has two scheduled meetings in March. One on March 10th and the other on March 24th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Harrington motions to adjourn. Mr. Fernandes seconds. The vote is unanimous.

The meeting adjourns at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura C. Watts, Recording Secretary
Cc: Town Clerk

Supporting Documents:

1. Director of Assessing Report, dated February 25, 2020 (1 page)
2. Revised FY2020 Pilot Payment for Canal Unit 3, dated January 1, 2020 (1 page)
3. Revised FY2020 Pilot Payment for Canal Units 1 & 2, dated January 1, 2020 (1 page)
February 25, 2020

EXECUTIVE SESSION SANDWICH BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Harrington motions to enter into Executive Session at 4:59 p.m. to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 21(a)(7) and M.G.L. Ch. 59 § 60 for the purpose of discussing abatements and exemptions and to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 22(f) for the review, potential approval and potential release of Executive Session meeting minutes from 1/21/2020 & 2/4/2020. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Harrington and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

PRESENT: Robert James, Chair; Nick Fernandes, Vice-Chair; Larry Harrington, Member; Ed Childs, Director of Assessing and Laura Watts, Recording Secretary

Mr. Harrington motions to approve and release the Executive Session minutes from the meeting held 1/21/2020 as written. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. James abstains. Mr. Harrington and Mr. Fernandes approve the motion by roll call vote. The motion is approved.

Mr. Harrington motion to approve and release the Executive Session minutes from the meeting held on 2/4/2020 as written. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Harrington, Mr. Fernandes and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The following real estate abatements were reviewed and recommended for approval as they meet all the criteria for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on FY’20 real estate tax bills. (See Abatement Log dated 2/25/2020 Bill #233-#7277)

Mr. Harrington motions to approve the abatements. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Harrington, Mr. Fernandes and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The following exemptions were reviewed and recommended for denial as they did not meet all the criteria for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on FY’20 real estate tax bills. (See Exemption Log Denials dated 2/25/2020 Bill #6738 & #6824)

Mr. Harrington motions to deny the exemptions. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Harrington, Mr. Fernandes and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The following exemptions were reviewed and recommended for approval as they meet all the criteria for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on FY’20 real estate tax bills. (See Exemption Log dated 2/25/2020 Bill #5215-#10731)

Mr. Harrington motions to approve the exemptions. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Harrington, Mr. Fernandes and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.
Mr. Harrington motions to return to open session at 5:20 p.m. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Harrington, Mr. Fernandes and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura C. Watts, Recording Secretary
Cc: Town Clerk

Supporting Documents:

1. Sandwich Assessing Exemption Log, Bill #5215-#10731, dated February 25, 2020 (1 page)
2. Sandwich Assessing Exemption Denial Log, Bill #6738 & #6824, dated February 25, 2020 (1 page)