

Minutes
Town of Montague Assessors' Department
1 Avenue A (2nd Floor), Turners Falls, MA
March 2, 2015

Members Present: Paul Emery, Teresa Miner, Betty Waidlich
Staff Present: Barbara Miller, Director of Assessing
Meeting convened 3:30 p.m.

- Approved Minutes of February 11, 2015
Motion to approve made by Mr. Emery, Second by Ms. Miner, Vote unanimous
- Approve Executive Session Minutes of February 11, 2015
Motion to approve made by Ms. Miner, Second by Mr. Emery, Vote unanimous
- VOTE AND/OR SIGNATURES REQUIRED
- Time sheets for Ms. Miller, weeks ending 2/21/2015 and 02/28/2015 signed by Mr. Emery
- FirstLight request for extension to file Form of List signed by Mr. Emery
- Community Action request for extension to file 3ABC signed by Mr. Emery
- Topics not anticipated covered in the 48 hour posting requirements
 - Motor vehicle abatement application March 2, 2015 - Ms. Miller explained that most excise abatement applications are processed by the staff according to MGL based on the vehicle being sold or traded and the registration returned or transferred. The applications are approved as a whole by the board in the approval of the monthly lists. This particular application is a request for the valuation to be abated do to physical depreciation. Ms. Miller pointed out that MGL Chapter 60A specifies the valuation to be based on the original manufacturers suggested retail price times a percentage which is determined by the age of the vehicle. Ms. Miller further stated that while there is a paragraph in the law that allows for the board to grant abatements in cases in which “the valuation aforesaid is in their or his opinion excessive” there is no process specified to determine that value other than the formula previously indicated. Ms. Miller does not feel the staff should be expected to inspect vehicles and research valuations when there is a clear formula within the law. Ten percent of manufacturers suggested retail is the minimum valuation within the law. Ms. Miller agrees that since vehicles remain on the road much longer than they did when the law was written the ten percent may be high but it is still equitable across the board. Changes to the legislation would be the only way to equitably adjust valuations. Ms. Miller recommends the board deny the abatement.
Motion to deny made by Mr. Emery, Second by Ms. Waidlich, Vote unanimous
- 3:45 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Emery Chair, to convene in Executive Session under Purpose 7 “to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general law,” to comply with Chapter 59 Section 60 to discuss Personal Exemptions and Real Estate Abatements” Second by Ms. Miner, Vote unanimous The board will return to open session.
- 4:15 p.m. Motion to return to open Session made by Mr. Emery, second by Ms. Waidlich, Vote unanimous

Meeting Adjourned 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Miller
Director of Assessing

Minutes approved _____