



Cranberry Land USA

TOWN OF CARVER ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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January 7, 2020

Present were Chair Mike Paduch, Members Peter Sullivan, pkValuation Group Representative Gail McAleer, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Craig Schoaf, Finance Director Meg LaMay, and town resident Alan Germain. Meeting called to order at 5:40 PM by the Board of Assessor Chairman Mike Paduch.

Resident Comments

Resident Petition: Videotaping Board of Assessors Meetings

Alan Germain: Ask for meetings to be transparent. Executive session can be exec session. Full board for Finance Committee. Alan asked 10 members if they knew where Board of Assessors meets. No one had an idea where the Board of Assessors meets. New growth is great, people need to see what is going on. This is the income side of things. Pratt's sustainability study started with income. Wants the Board of Assessors to be seen and people have a better idea of what is going on. Germain plays back the tape to see what the minutes are missing.

Gail McAleer: A good bit of meeting can be public except the exemptions.

Alan Germain: Everything gets a life of its own. Assessing is the income side of town finance, people need to see how it is formulated.

Michael Paduch: Board will consider things when a full board is convened.

Alan Germaine: I bend over backwards to keep things open and transparent. The Finance Committee has been very transparent. People have come up to me and said how open and transparent things have been. The process will be recorded and people will understand.

Minutes

No motion to review minutes from December 3, 2019 meeting.

Any Other New Business

Ellen Blanchard, Board of Assessors arrives at 5:51.

Review of Exemptions granted in December:

Gail McAleer: Issue with numbering of properties. A deed was entered incorrectly. This legally reassesses the taxes from the incorrect person to the correct person.

Signed by all 3 members of the Board of Assessors

Uncollectables:

Gail: List of uncollectable from FY92-FY18. Board of Assessors signs unanimously.

Televised meetings:

Gail McAleer: What we have done and what is coming up shortly is not considered confidential. This can be done in open session. There is a consistent methodology with assessing. The more open and transparent the Assessing Office can be, the more confident the residents have in the Assessing Office.

Ellen Blanchard: We have always been transparent in this office.

Motion to videotape 10 minutes of BoA meeting (3 nays)

- Motion Ellen Blanchard, 2nd Peter Sullivan

Michael Paduch: It's hard to be open in a back room.

Meg LaMay: I think there was an email from the Selectboard about videotaping all meetings. There are 4 meeting rooms available for use by different boards and committees. I think Ron Clarke said there can be number of meetings taped.

Ellen Blanchard: We could use the small meeting room of the Selectboard offices. Back in the day we used to record the audio.

Michael Paduch: We can meet in the other room but we need to coordinate the cameras. I really don't like the idea but I understand the political climate we're in. With what Alan Germain said, things can be taken out of context.

Ellen Blanchard: Some people might want to create an issue. We should record only what we should record. The Assessor's office and the TC office recorded a video showing what we used to do. We spent an hour and a half explaining what we do.

Michael Paduch: We have nothing to hide. I disagree with the nonsense but I understand it is necessary.

Motion to run test of feasibility of taping BoA meetings. (3 nays)

- Motion made by Ellen Blanchard, seconded by Peter Sullivan

Release of Liens:

G: They are not completed for this meeting. The plan, of a portion of a land trying to come out of 61A, was not filed. I will stay after the meeting to get the lien release requested by the planning board finished for a different lien release.

Unexpected Business not anticipated 48 hours ahead of meeting:

Motion to table discussion about CPA surcharge exemption on Real Estate Exemptions: (3 yays)

- Motion Ellen Blanchard, 2nd Peter Sullivan

Executive Session

Motion by Ellen 2nd by Peter – Vote 3-0-0 to convene to execute session under MGL C30A, Sec 21 (a) 7, to comply with, or act under the authority of MGL C59, sec 60.

1. To Review, discuss and sign exemption application forms.

Hearing of no other business

Motion to Adjourn at 7:14 PM (3-0)

Next Board Meeting January 21, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Schoaf
Assistant Treasurer/Collector