



Town of Groton
Board of Assessors
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
978-448-1127

Meeting Minutes **May 4, 2005**

Board Attendees:

Edward J. Kopec, Chairman
Hugh McLaughlin
Sylvia Sangiolo, Clerk

Other Attendees:

Rena E. Swezey, Assistant Assessor
Rebecca Scribner, Assessors Clerk

Mr. Kopec opened the meeting at 3:00pm.

New Business

The Board signed the following documents:

- Motor Vehicle
 1. MV 2004 - \$236.77
 2. MV 2005 - \$1,409.78
 3. MV 2005 - \$1,220.10
- Real Estate Abatement Applications
 1. Fedyk - 220 Hayden Road - Granted
 2. Jarboe - 46 Fletcher Lane - Granted
 3. Tedesco - 31 Windmill Hill Road - Granted
 4. Cleanup parcels from Tax Collector's office - Parcels 102-52-0 and 104-10-1 - Granted
- Exemption
 1. Bennett - Clause 41C - Denied, not listed on deed as homeowner.

Ms. Sangiolo brought up several issues. They are:

- Town Website Assessor info
 1. Suggested changing the Assessors Advisory column every week.
 2. Wants the Board to meet with the Website Committee to have a discussion on what changes can be made so that the Assessor's info is more visible.

- Patriot/Vision quotes
 1. Mr. McLaughlin would like to see the quotes in a format of comparative listings so we can better ascertain the collective values of one company versus the others. Ms. Sangiolo cautioned that there is a downside to switching companies and that we should be aware of the negatives.
 2. Mr. McLaughlin expressed concern over spending money in 2006 for new software. Ms. Swezey explained that the \$25,000 used in the past for the Patriot contract was still in the 2006 budget to use for whatever vendor services are necessary next year.
 3. Ms. Swezey is not happy with Patriot's response time. It has taken months to get the menu contract we have in hand today. Patriot is channeling their energies into new accounts in Florida and North Carolina.
 4. Ms. Sangiolo suggested that talk be tabled until such time that Ms. Scribner could work up the comparison Mr. McLaughlin suggested and discuss further at the next meeting. All agreed.
- Goal Setting
 1. Ms. Sangiolo presented for consideration a sheet with a list of possible goals for the coming year. She would like everyone to review it and add detail where possible.
 2. Ms. Sangiolo offered that the Board should be more aware of what goes on in the office day-to-day. Ms. Swezey needs to spend more time in the field and program the corrections. She is, however, too often needed in the office dealing with issues that can be handled by others. Some of the issues can be handled by the Board, however, what is really needed is more staff hours and a better trained support system for Ms. Swezey. The extra hours are regularly denied by the Finance Committee (FINCOM) and the Board of Selectmen (BOS). To a degree this is where the Board of Assessors have not provided strong documentation in order to educate and increase awareness of the Assessors' Office issues for the FINCOM and the BOS. Ms. Sangiolo suggested that the office personnel can help the Board by supplying as much information as possible, so that the Board can build a strong case based on factual conditions. To date, the Board have presented the case in generalities and now needs to have solid documentation in order to convince them of our needs
 3. Mr. McLaughlin said that we need staffing plans.

Additional Information

There was a lot of discussion regarding Town Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18th at 3:00pm.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn at 6:15pm. Ms. Sangiolo seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm by Mr. Kopec.