

Groton Board of Assessors

***Town Hall
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450***

***Present:
Garrett Boles
Jenifer Evans
Rena Swezey***

***Date: Oct. 22, 2012
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Assessors Office
Minutes***

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

***The first order of business was signatures were affixed to the following:
Motor Vehicle Abatement Logs- for September-----\$2,977.59
Out Standing Bills----Greco two jackets-----\$125.00***

Signatures on the following exemptions:

Senior Work-off applications.....To date we have had 33 seniors apply for the Senior Work-off program for FY 2014.

***Clause 37..... Blind.....4 applications for exemption approved by the board.
Clause 50.....Elderly Housing.....3 applications approved by the board.
Clause 17....Surviving Spouse.....1 application approved by the board.
Clause 41C...Senior 70 years and older....14 applications approved by the board.
Clause 22....Veterans.....20 applications approved by the board.
Clause 41A...Tax Deferrals.....2 applications approved by the board.***

The due date for all statutory exemptions is December 15th.

Mr. Boles made a motion to accept all applications signed and approved to date, seconded by Ms. Evans, all in favor.

Chapter 61A and 61B applications. The Board of Assessors signed 35 applications for FY 2014 both 61A and 61B classification for Chapter Land. Ms. Swezey made a motion to accept all applications for classification, seconded by Ms. Evans, all in favor.

Request to talk about reducing Personal Property Exemption.

Ms. Swezey related to the board that the DOR wanted a copy of the certified vote of the Town Meeting Vote taken in 2002 to exempt all Personal Property less than a value of \$10,000.

The Local Assessment office said most of the towns in Mass use a valuation of \$1000 or \$2000 in value and the highest exemption being \$5000. Ms. Swezey asked if the

board would like to go back to town meeting at some future time and reduce the exemption. Mr. Boles said he would not want to make any changes as his thoughts were that would just impact the small businesses in town to pay more taxes. Ms. Evans agreed she would not want to make any changes in the exemption as that may also impact taxpayers with livestock and pleasure animals now that may fall under a reduced exemption of Personal Property.

Ms. Swezey agreed but stated she was asked the by the DOR why Groton chose the maximum allowance on the exemption. She explained to the board at the time the exemption was chosen we had Personal Property tax bill of \$5.00 or less and the cost to generate a bill at that time with Point Software was over \$32.00 per bill. The board all agreed to leave Personal Property as it is.

The date for the next meeting will be November 19, 2012 and the meeting will start at 6:30 P.M. to sign anything needed.

The classification hearing with the Board of Selectmen is for 7:00 P.M. on 11/19/12 at which time a recommendation will be made to the Selectmen to continue with a single tax rate. Mr. Boles made the motion to keep a single tax rate, seconded by Ms. Evans, all in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Boles, seconded by Ms. Evans, all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Rena Swezey