

## THE TOWN OF HUBBARDSTON, MASSACHUSETTS Office of the Board of Assessors

7 Main Street Unit 1 Hubbardston, MA 01452 (978) 928-1400 EXT. 203 FAX (978) 928-1402

Minutes of the Board of Assessors' Meeting held on January 9, 2017 in the Assessors' Office located in the Library Basement

Meeting brought to order at 7:05 PM

Attending: John K Prentiss (chair), Albert Afonso (member), William Homans (member), Diane Peterson (RRG Assessor), Genevieve Daniels (Assessor's clerk)

Others: Robert and Kathy Newton (Residents)

## **Discussions:**

- Reviewing the Real Estate Abatement submitted by Robert and Kathy Newton for the property located off Gardner Road on map 3 lot 110. The Newton's have leased 6 acres of their land to Borrego Solar causing the land value to go from 60,000 in 2016 to 122,100 in 2017, leading to a higher Real Estate tax amount. Mr. Newton is questioning why his tax has gone up when he was told that leasing the land would not affect the tax amount. Diane explained to him that leasing the land to Borrego Solar changed his property from Residential to Industrial use. Mr. Newton asked if the Lease Agreement that he has with Borrego Solar is the same as the Pilot Agreement that Borrego Solar has with The Town of Hubbardston and if the amount the Company agrees to pay to the town includes his change in taxes. Diane let Mr. and Mrs. Newton know that the Lease Agreement and the Pilot Agreement are two different things. She also showed them that in Section 17 of their Lease Agreement, the Solar Company is responsible for the real estate tax.
  - The Assessor and the Board recommended that they get in contact with the Solar Company.
- A request was made for Genevieve to attend a day long workshop on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the Assistant Town Clerk Position she holds. This request was approved.
- The proposed budget for FY2018 was discussed and the Board agreed to request their stipends to be reinstated.
- Shelter Island Fund Diane will be meeting with the lawyer before the ATB

## **Documents Signed:**

- Revised Commitments
- Statutory Exemptions; Approvals & Denials
- Motor Vehicle Abatement Certificate Listing
- Meeting Minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Next meeting scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 PM

John K. Prentiss

Albert Afonso

William Homans

Approved