

Town of Bedford, Board of Assessors

Date: August 6, 2014

Bedford Town Hall

Call To Order:

Roll Call: Ron Cordes, Chairman; Bruce Murphy, Clerk; Zoe Pierce, Member; Stephen Poulos, Associate Assessor

Guests: James R Kohm, 5 Beverly Road

Discussion

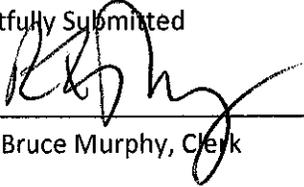
Mr. Kohm presented the Board with three comparable properties (26 Wildwood Drive, 27 Wildwood Drive, 4 Beverly Road) for his property with the intention of asking for an abatement. The Board explained to Mr. Kohm that its jurisdiction for granting abatements is limited by statute to a certain time period and that the allowed time period is closed. The Board also directed Mr. Poulos to review the proposed comparable properties provided by the taxpayer for applicability and to review the proposed values of the subject property with the taxpayer during the review period of this years valuation exercise.

Stephen Poulos informed the Board of a catastrophic hardware systems crash that corrupted the files and the backups of the Patriot CAMA system. At the time of the meeting recovery back to last month appeared to be possible; all transactions after the recovery point would have to be manually reentered. The Board asked the Associate Assessor to confer with our consultants to establish a date at which this issue creates a material risk to Bedford's triennial revaluation schedule. The Chairman will reach out to the Town Manager and request a briefing for the Board as to what steps are being put in place to insure that this never happens again.

The Board discussed the possibility of implementing Chapter 59, section 5, clause 18 as an alternative approach to the Residential Exemption. Consensus on the Board that further discussion of this was worthwhile. The Chairman asked the Board members to familiarize themselves with the statute and to begin thinking about how the Board would set criteria for the application of this exemption to provide tax relief to long term elderly tax payers for whom property taxes are a financial burden.

Adjournment: Moved Zoe Pierce; seconded Bruce Murphy; Vote: 3-0-0. 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted



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Robert Bruce Murphy, Clerk

Approved by Board: September 3, 2014