



Approved: 5-30-19

Holliston Board of Assessors
March 28, 2019
8:00 am Selectmen's Meeting Room #105

The meeting of the Board of Assessors was called to order at 8:05am.

Present were: Peter Barbieri, Chair; Mary Greendale, Vice Chair; Lesley Kennally, Clerk; Kathryn Peirce, Principal Assessor; Kelly Schorr, Assistant Assessor.

Also present: Jeff Ritter, Town Administrator; Mark Ahronian, Selectman

The Board signed:

- Week ending 3/22/19 report of MV Abatements for 2018 and 2019 in the total amount of \$2046.47
- Week ending 3/22/19 RE Abatements in the total amount of \$651.59
- Minutes of 3/7/19
- Minutes of 3/14/19
MOTION, M. Greendale. Second. L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.
- Payroll ending 3/29/19 in the amount of 3358.77
- Payroll ending 3/22/19 in the amount of 3,298.62
MOTION, M. Greendale. Second. L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.

The Board approved and signed:

- Bills Payable for MLS Quarterly Subscription to account 57100 in the Amount of \$87.00
- MV Excise Commitment #2 for 3/18/2019 in the amount of \$260,383.81
- MV Excise Recommit for 2014 Bill #189 in the amount of \$43.75
- Amended Veterans Exemption #8.
Moved the recipient from 22a to 22C for a change from \$480 to \$1,800.
MOTION, M. Greendale. Second. L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.
- Tax Deferral #5 in the amount of \$6,187.13
MOTION, M. Greendale. Second. L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.
- RE Abatement #6. Request on Back Land \$500. Adjusted Value \$23,900
MOTION, M. Greendale. Second, L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.

5/16/19

- RE Abatement #19. Antiquity gone. Grade lowered because historic trims and the antique value are gone. Lowered \$31,000 TO \$257,000.
MOTION, M. Greendale. Second, L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.
- RE Abatement #22. The house is not livable, and the owner expects to tear it down and sell the property. It was purchased for \$370,000 in 2014. The revised assessment is \$286,900.
MOTION, P. Barbieri. Second, L. Kennally
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.

The Board Considered:

- K. Peirce reported on the Appeal Board counter offer re: 116 Hopping Brook. Their offer was \$6.3 million for FY 16 and FY 17 / \$6.5 million for FY 18, FY 19 No abatement with all interest waived. K. Peirce recommends acceptance given interest waiver.
MOTION, P. Barbieri. Second, M. Greendale
VOTE: 3-0-0 in favor.
- Herb Chambers submitted an abatement request without documentation to justify it. Chambers asked to hold the same value for 2020. The Board does not anticipate a change, but will not commit to a future assessment.
- Meeting on Elder Programs:
Mark Ahronian and Jeff Ritter visited to discuss Hopkinton's Tax Relief and Circuit Breaker programs. K. Peirce reported that 276 Holliston people qualified for the state's Circuit Breaker in 2014 at @ \$459-\$918. Our current program(s) are funded from the overlay, which spreads the burden across all taxpayers. If we adopted the Circuit Breaker, the cost would be borne only by residential properties. That would be a shift within the residential levy.

Hopkinton law allows no double-dipping; ie filing for clause exemptions and this means treatment. People need to file taxes. Hopkinton's by-law does not cap the annual tax increases. It only provides up to \$918 in annual relief.

The BOA suggested that instead of adopting the Circuit Breaker like Hopkinton, we could increase our existing program by increasing the allowable exemption from 20% of the base amount allowed by state law to 100% (to a maximum of \$1800), which spreads the cost across all properties, not just residential.
K. Peirce estimates that 100% would cost \$40,000 from the Overlay.

The Board will look at reducing the qualifying age to 65 for next year.

P. Barbieri will meet with the Finance Committee tonight, Thursday March 28.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Greendale