

Minutes

Board of Assessors

Room 105

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

5:00 PM

The meeting convened at 5:01 PM. Present were Jeffrey Marshall, chair (via telephone), Mary Greendale and Stephen Wang. Staff: Kevin Rudden and Sherrie Bates.

1. Mary Greendale made a motion, seconded by Stephen Wang, to approve the regular session and executive session minutes for the October 3, 2023 meeting. The motion carried 3-0-0.
2. Mary Greendale made a motion at 5:03 p.m., seconded by Stephen Wang, to enter into an executive session to discuss confidential exemption application information, with the intent to return to public session. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.
3. The board returned to public session at 5:06 p.m. Stephen Wang made a motion, seconded by Mary Greendale, to ratify the actions taken during the executive session. The motion carried 3-0-0.
4. Kevin Rudden updated the board on four topics:
 - Town Administrator Travis Ahern has given department heads an updated copy of the Strategic Plan and asked them to review “Actionable Ideas.” Kevin Rudden will make comments on the plan and provide a copy, with his comments, to board members.
 - Pharmacannis has submitted an application to put its 465 Hopping Brook Road facility under Chapter 61A farmland. Kevin Rudden checked with the Department of Revenue (no response). He also checked with the Farmland Valuation Advisory Committee to the DOR and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, who both said marijuana is not eligible for Chapter 61A.

- Kevin Rudden said the “Tax Relief” bill signed by Governor Maura Healey on October 4th includes a provision to create a local exemption for affordable rental housing. Kevin will provide the board with draft regulations to consider. Mary Greendale suggested using Community Preservation or Housing Trust funds to cover the costs of the exemptions.
- Kevin Rudden said the annual Tax Classification hearing is scheduled to be held by the Select Board on November 6th.

5. The board set October 24, 2023 for its next meeting.

Mary Greendale made a motion at 5:25 PM, seconded by Stephen Wang, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Documents Discussed:

- Minutes of October 3, 2023 meeting
- Minutes of October 3, 2023 executive session