

Town of Ashby
Office of the Board of Assessors
Minutes for the Meeting on June 09, 2010

Place of Meeting: Town Hall

Time of Meeting: 7:00 P.M.

Members Present:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oliver Mutch	Chairman
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Cudmore	Member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Vogt	Member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harald Scheid	Regional Assessor
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lois Raymond	Administrative Assistant

Meeting started promptly at 7 PM

1. **Introduction and Overview for new Board Members**
*Harald and Oliver provided some insight into the role of the Assessor.
It was stated that the board is the eyes and ears for the Town and they can help provide the taxpayers with proper procedures to follow for exemptions, abatements, valuation concerns etc...*
2. **Read and approved minutes of the April 14th 2010 meeting**
*Minutes were read and approved
It was brought up that the 'Open Meeting' laws were changing, Lorraine provided Lois with a copy of the new laws to follow effective FY 2011.*
3. **Review current budget balances**
*Budget lines are appropriate
Lois is working with Cartographics to get Map changes submitted and invoiced before July 1st.*
4. **Board review and Approval of Warrants, MVE Abatements and Payables**
Documents to approve and sign:
 - a. MVE Abatement Batch – **May** effective 4/16/2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - b. MVE Abatement Batch – **May 02** effective 5/12/2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - c. MVE Abatement Batch – **June 01** effective 6/09/2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - d. Motor Vehicle Warrant – Section 5 Farm Plates (**2010-99**) – *Approved and signed*
 - e. Motor Vehicle Warrant – **2009-09** mailed May 28th, 2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - f. Motor Vehicle Warrant – **2010-03** mailed May 28th, 2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - g. **WB Mason invoice** for Ink Cartridges for \$107.97 – *Approved and signed*
Leaves balance of \$25.40 in Assessor Expense Line
5. **Final Real Estate / Personal Property Abatements**
Documents to approve and sign:
 - a. PP Abatement(s) Batch – effective 4/28/2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - b. PP Abatement(s) Batch – **May 2010** dated 6/9/2010 – *Approved and signed*
 - c. RE Abatement correction dated 6/9/2010 – *Approved and signed*
6. **Contact Information for RRG**
*Members provided contact information for RRG.
RRG is compiling a database to centralize this information.*
7. **Regional Assessor Contract**
Harald gave us an overview of his regional contract which is part of a consortium that originally included Ashby, Lunenburg and Townsend, but Townsend has since left. Lunenburg handles the contract and it was due to be renewed in July of 2009 but instead of renewing (or renegotiating) it for 3 years, they just extended the contract provisionally for 1 year which will be up July 1st of 2010.

8. **Assessor Updates**

Lois is being trained by Norma Frost part of the RRG group

Dale Erskine, another RRG employee, has done a first pass of all parcels that had open Building Permits in town to assess their % complete and provide new valuation numbers when appropriate.

Linda Couture, another RRG employee, has been helping out with abatement applications and inspecting properties sold.

Recent Sales Data is compiled to establish new assessment guidelines.

Harald stated that we are most likely looking at a round of value reductions, however he cautioned that we don't want to be too aggressive lowering valuations because we could then be in the position to have to elevate drastically in coming years.

Harald will review the details and numbers with the Board and provide recommendations, then ask for the Board's input.

9. **General Discussion**

Preliminary tax bills go out the end of June

Harald was given a registered letter form the Appellate Tax Board. They appeal abatements.

Verizon is appealing the DOR's assessment of their lines and conduits

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting is July 14, 2010

10. **Old Business**

Cartographic Associates – Lois is working with Franco at CAI to get changes and invoice into FY 2010

11. **Adjournment**

meeting adjourned at 8:05

Signed this 14th day of July, 2010
