

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
October 20, 2008

Attending: Diane Lanney, Vincent Ritchie, Fin Com, Mark Dymek

Reviewed and approved two November 13, 2008 STM articles authored and submitted by the DA.

Entered Executive Session with intent to return to Open Session to adjourn.

Executive Session meeting minutes separate.

Returned to Open Session.

Approved August 25, 2008 and September 8, 2008 meeting minutes.

Discussed DA recommendation of Chapter 310 of the Acts of 2008 – amendment to MGL Ch 59 58A, regarding no longer committing/collecting Farm Animal Excise. DA cost analysis: more resources spent than tax being collected.

Discussed Straight Ahead Ministries ATB decision for the appellee, requiring a 100 % abatement of FY08 taxes. Still awaiting ATB decision documents as was requested, specifically due not only to the ATB ruling that Straight Ahead Ministries is a charitable entity, but the ATB did not institute charitable as outlined by MGL in their determination of the abatement amount, where the property was most definitely not being used for charitable purposes, (i.e.; the warehouse being leased to Rockwerks, or the two apartments being rented to members of the public).

Reviewed October 2, 2008 letter from CIPC requesting joint BOS & Fin Com meeting.

Mr. Dymek entered the meeting from a joint BOS/Fin Com meeting requesting additional information on BOA November 13, 2008 STM article transferring \$43,000 from Property Update Stabilization Account to Property Update Account. The DA stated they had already sent an email to all BOS and Fin Com outlining the exact use of the funds, how and why the Stabilization Account, including a 10-year plan, was derived and that DOR requires the activities and will fund them via the Recap if the Town does not. Mr. Dymek stated he had received and reviewed the email, but requested clarification on the expenditure – “What will the DOR do if the Town does not complete the activities?” Mr. Dymek stated that he believes the activities to be overly expensive and a waste of time. The DA stated that the integrity and equitability of all assessments and data is a key element of the full Measure and List of PP and RE as well as the Reval, even though Interim Adjustments are also required. The activities that visibly ensure such to the

public and the State and provide a standardization accountability. The DA stated that not only will the DOR not approve a tax rate, but reiterated that the DOR will allocate Town funds, which could result in the Town not having a choice of where the funds are taken – specifically the Prop Update Stabilization that has the necessary funds through FY09 and as long as the account is continued to be funded through at least 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.