Sturbridge Board of Assessors

Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2020

**The list matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed, and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.**

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Sturbridge Board of Assessor’s will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.  Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation can be found on the Town’s website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/town-administrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>.  For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen and or watch the meeting either online via the Town’s on demand video broadcast, on cable television on channel 191, or dial into the meeting at 774-304-1455, enter 1428# for the meeting number and 12345 for the access code.  (This phone number is only active for the public during public meetings).  No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.  In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post of the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

**Present:** Ann Murphy (AM), Paul Murphy (PM), Sophia Lengyel-Rogers (SLR)

**Also Present:** Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator acting as Meeting Facilitator.

**Meeting called to order:**

PM called meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

**Minutes:**

Reviewed and approved meeting minutes from 7/8/2020. SLR made motion to accept, PM 2ND , AIF.

Reviewed and approved executive session minutes from 7/8/2020. SLR made motion to accept, PM 2nd, AIF.

**Sign All Necessary Documents:**

Monthly Reports:

July MV Abatements

1 Chapter 61 application

2 Chapter 61A applications

2 Chapter 61B applications

FY2020 Supplemental Tax Report, Commitment & Warrant

2020 Motor Vehicle Excise #4 Report, Commitment & Warrant

2020 Motor Vehicle Excise #51 Report, Commitment & Warrant

DOR Reports:

 LA13A

**Old Business:**

Discussed the vacancy position on the Board. The Board approved a memo to the Board of Selectmen notifying them of the vacancy.

**Any other business before the Board:**

The Board reviewed and approved to accept a plan of land which was drawn up to combine two lots.

The Board reviewed and discussed a land value issue on a property. They advised the Principal Assessor to contact the owner and have him file an abatement during the abatement period and the Board will review it.

**New Business:**

Update Assessors on the town hall hours.

The Board was updated on the status of FY2021 Recap.

Discussed the process of optional preliminary bills for a semi-annual community. The Board voted to request authority from the Commissioner to issue preliminary bills “contingent on necessity”. The Board also approved a memo to the Board of Selectmen notifying them of the vote per M.G.L Chapter 59 section 23D.

The Board discussed the upcoming classification hearing and approved a memo to the Board of Selectmen requesting that the meeting be held on September 8, 2020.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday September 8 at 5pm.

**Closed:** PM made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 P.M., SLR 2nd, AIF. Meeting adjourned.