

Received by Town Clerk
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**Town of Swampscott
Board of Assessors
Open Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 16, 2023**

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tasia Vasiliou (TV), Vice Chair Neil Sheehan (NS)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Secretary Lara Goodman (LG)

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Director of Assessment Cheryl Moschella (CM), Select Board Liaison Mary Ellen Fletcher (MF)

OPEN SESSION: Convened at: 11:03 am

Discussion: FY24 values for properties located near Stanley School were discussed due to the impact construction is having on residents. Several residents filed abatements last fiscal year due to the construction which were declined because they were not filed for the correct fiscal year of impact. TV expressed concerns regarding a letter that the Town Administrator (TA) sent her as Chairman of the Board regarding conflict of interest. It was noted that one of the Board members lives in the Stanley School neighborhood but has recused herself. TA advised in his letter that any reclassification of a property, which was previously mentioned by the Board as an avenue to explore, would be a conflict of interest based on the fact that two board members reside in the neighborhood. TV does not agree that a conflict of interest exists on her behalf because while she is a resident of the neighborhood, she would not benefit from any potential compensation to the residents. She will contact the State Ethics Committee for confirmation. CM stated that because TV occupies an address within the school neighborhood, she agrees with TA that there is a conflict of interest.

An Orchard Road resident affected by the Stanley School project relayed the inconveniences he has experienced during the ongoing construction to include noise and light pollution. He was told that the lighting for the construction site is due to safety issues. He further stated that as a contractor he understands the construction process and the inconveniences caused but said that there is an impact to surrounding neighborhoods.

The Board stated that Patriot Properties has previously adjusted values for large construction projects and would like to have property record cards reviewed for residents who may have received compensation. The Board believes that a 10% reduction in value may be a figure that was previously used. TV recommended a temporary one-year, three-tier adjustment for compensation according to the level of impact to ensure compensation is consistent and fair. CM expressed concerns that the Board may be setting a precedent for compensation for construction projects. The Board stated that compensation for impact would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Action items –

- CM will contact Patriot Properties regarding compensation residents received for the construction project for the high school with a focus on Greenwood Rd residents and try to locate abatement applications from that time frame.
- TV will follow up with the State Ethics Committee.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday November 20, 2023, at 11 am.

Motion to adjourn: NS
Second: TV
Rollcall Vote: UNANIMOUS
Adjourned at: 12:30 pm

True Attest,
Lisa Taylor