

March 8, 2022

Town of Swampscott

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING

Tuesday March 8, 2022

Members Present: Chairman: Neil Sheehan (NS), Tasia Vasilliou (TV), Lara Goodman (LG)

Ben Straight, Assessing Director

Convene open session at 11:46 am Neil

Open Session:

1. Vote to approve minutes from BOA Meeting on 1/27/22

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 1/27/22

Motion: NS

Second: LG

Vote: NS, LG Passed

2. Assessing update, Lisa Taylor will be starting on Monday as the administrative assistant. Her Hours will be 8:30 to 12:30 M-Th and 9-12 on Fridays
3. Schedule meeting for 3/22 at 11:45 for all remaining exemptions and completed abatements, may need to be a longer meeting, perhaps later afternoon? Whatever is most convenient for the Board.
4. Food for Thought- Is a Pipe Bursting a Natural Disaster? Massachusetts law allows an “immediate abatement for real estate damaged by Fire or Natural Disaster, the damage must rise to the level of 50% of the Value for this abatement”. The term Natural Disaster is not defined, and the Board has the ultimate say. There is a case of this currently.
5. Exemption Articles for the Annual Town Meeting: Would the Board like to sponsor a bill to increase the exemption amounts and/or the income and asset limits of the available exemptions? Need to initially submit by the 18<sup>th</sup>. This would potentially be for 17D, 22 A-F, 41C.

Helpful hints: Use ctrl-F to find the clause and the number is spelled out e.g. 41C is “Forty-first C” The look for the language:

A city, by vote of its council and approval of its mayor, or a town, by vote of town meeting, may adjust the following factors contained in these provisions by: 1) reducing the requisite age of eligibility to any person age 65 years or older; 2) increasing either or both of the amounts contained in the first sentence of this clause, by not more than 100 per cent; 3) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (B) of said first sentence whenever they appear in said subclause from \$13,000 to not more than \$20,000 and from \$15,000 dollars to not more than \$30,000; 4) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (C) of said first sentence whenever they appear in said subclause from \$28,000 dollars to not more than \$40,000 and from \$30,000 to not more than \$55,000; and 5) by further excluding from the determination of whole estate up to 3 dwelling units.

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleIX/Chapter59/Section5>

6. Excise Abatements- Total posted as of 3/7/2022 in FY 2022 is 18,612.88 (171 Abatements) including 739.44 (10 Abatements) for FY22 bills.

Motion to approve MV Excise Abatements totaling \$18,612.88

Motion: NS

Second: TV

Vote: UNAM

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: NS

Second: TV

UNAM