

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS PUBLIC MEETING
TOWN OF CHARLEMONT**

August 8,, 2011

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m., with the following members present: Simon Dean, Chair and Jacqueline Cashin. Member Sarah Reynolds was absent.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes from their 7/25/11 meeting. On a motion by Dean and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.
2. The Board reviewed a letter written to Walter Clark explaining the acreage of his property, as discussed with their mapper at their last meeting. On a motion by Cashin and seconded by Dean, the Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the letter as written.
3. The Board reviewed a letter received from Marilyn Browne, of the DOR regarding New Cingular Wireless' offer to settle their appeal. The letter basically stated that it was up to the Assessors in the towns involved in the appeal to decide if the proposed depreciation schedule submitted by New Cingular was reasonable, and that the DOR was not rendering an opinion either way about these.
4. The Board then reviewed a Withdrawal of Appeal from New Cingular Wireless for the Fiscal Years 2005-2008, stating that all matters from these years have been resolved.
5. The Board discussed assessing decks and outbuildings to owners of campers in campgrounds. Millett told the Board she was informed by their consultant that decks, sheds, outbuildings etc should be assessed to owners of the campground and not the individual camper owners. After some discussion about this seeming to be unfair to the campground owners, especially as it has not been done this way in the past, Cashin noted that she will check on this in her Course 101 Class tomorrow and report back to the Board at their next meeting.
6. Next, the Board discussed the Ricko shed which had not yet been removed from the property at 283 Legate Hill Road. Millett told the Board that Duane would visit the property and measure the shed when he comes in September and suggested the Assessors contact Mr. Ricko to let him know someone needed to measure it. Dean agreed to contact Mr. Ricko about the shed.
7. The Board discussed a property that was recently purchased by the Academy at Charlemont, a tax-exempt school. Millett noted that she was contacted on several occasions by the Academy to find out if they in fact owe taxes for the property, as it is not currently being used by the school. Millett explained she had a couple calls in to Joe Barbieri, of the Division of Local Services to obtain the answer. Cashin stated that they were discussing this in their class and believed it be the responsibility of the owners as of January 1st, which would have been the previous owners, but noted she would check this as well. The Board also asked her to check on the status going forward, as the intent of the school is to not occupy or use the property, but to sell it.
8. The Board next discussed a 36 acre Owner Unknown property. Dean stated that he has been discussing it with Mike O'Dell, the last known owner of record, and O'Dell informed him that his grandfather owned the land and the State bought this with Catamount property in Colrain, but then later informed him that they only purchased the property in Colrain and not Charlemont. Since he was never sure of this, and because the property is landlocked, O'Dell stated he never pursued it. Since there were still no clear answers, the Board will table this and mark it as a property to have Valley Title research for them.

At 10:40 p.m., on a motion by Dean and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn their regular meeting.

At 10:40 p.m., on a motion by Dean and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session, with the intent of not returning to open meeting afterwards, in order to deliberate on pending abatement and/or exemption applications.

Roll Call:

Voting yes: Dean, Cashin

Voting no: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene Millett,
Assessor's Secretary

List of Documents Viewed in Public Meeting of August 8, 2011*

1. Letter to Walter Clark, dated August 8, 2011
2. Letter Marilyn Browne, of the DOR, dated July 29, 2011
3. Withdrawal of Appeal from New Cingular/AT&T, received August 8, 2011
4. Summer, 2011 issues of The Beacon

***Documents not attached to minutes are stored in their respective file in the Assessor's office.**