

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

September 12, 2011

The meeting was convened at 7:32 p.m., with the following members present: Simon Dean, Chair, Jacqueline Cashin and Sarah Reynolds.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes from their 8/22/11 meeting. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Dean, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.
2. The Board reviewed and signed the monthly list of motor vehicle abatements for August, 2011.
3. The Board reviewed a letter to Donald Rice explaining assessment of personal property. On a motion by Dean and seconded by Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously to approve the letter as written.
4. The Board reviewed the deeds for August, 2011.
5. The Board reviewed bill schedules for the Recorder and postage stamps. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to approve both bills.
6. The Board reviewed the list of small businesses in town and explained to Cashin that some towns opt to grant a tax break to small businesses, and noted that Charlemont did not vote to accept this option.
7. Next, the Board reviewed a letter regarding a pre-trial conference for towns that were still in litigation in the New Cingular Wireless appeal. The letter did not pertain to Charlemont, as the case is settled.
8. The Board reviewed an email regarding open-source internet based financial management software. The Community Software Consortium in conjunction with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is working on obtaining licenses and possible funding through grants. The email invited participants to serve on an advisory committee and provided contact information. The Board asked their Secretary to forward the email to them.
9. The Board discussed Charlemont Land Preservation's Chapter 61A property. It was noted that no application for Chapter 61A classification had been received by the deadline of October 1, 2010 (for Fiscal Year 2012), and that it is the owner's responsibility to submit timely applications annually. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Dean, the Board voted unanimously to remove the property from Chapter 61 classification for Fiscal Year 2012 due to the application not received by the deadline. The Board also signed a Notice of Late Application to be sent to the property owner.
10. Next, the Board discussed the printer/copier, which had not been working correctly. Millett noted that she had contacted Josh Bellows and was told that he did not work on printers. Millett explained that Mohawk Office Equipment informed her that they would look at it, but that it would be \$160.00 just for the diagnostic, if brought to them. After some discussion, the Board agreed that a new copier would cost less and Dean agreed to do some checking into a new one.
11. The Board discussed the effects of recent Hurricane Irene on properties and businesses in town and noted that some, like Mohawk Park had been hit especially hard. The Board directed their Secretary to research tax relief for such properties, and to see what was done back in June when the Springfield area was hit by tornadoes.

At 8:35 p.m., on a motion by Dean and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn their regular meeting.

At 8:36 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, Reynolds, Cashin

Voting no: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene Millett,
Assessor's Secretary

List of Documents Viewed in Public Meeting of September 12, 2011*

1. Monthly list of abatements for August, 2011 (levy of 2010).
2. Deeds for August, 2011.
3. Letter to Donald Rice, dated 9/12/11.
4. Bill schedules for postage and the Recorder, dated 9/12/11.
5. Small Business List dated August, 2011.
6. New Cingular pre-trial conference notice, dated 8/23/11.
7. Email regarding internet-based software, dated 8/29/11.
8. Notice of Late Application to Charlemont Land Preservation, dated 9/12/11.

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