

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

March 12, 2012

Members Present:

Simon Dean, Chair
Sarah Reynolds

Members Absent:

Jacqueline Cashin

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes from their 2/27/12 meeting. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Dean, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.
2. The Board reviewed and signed 2012 motor vehicle commitment #1R.
3. The Board reviewed and signed the monthly list of abatements for January and February, 2012.
4. The Board reviewed an invoice from Avery's Store. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Dean, the invoice was approved for payment.
5. The Board reviewed a letter from Kevin Parsons, Attorney for the Shea's, which stated that his clients agree to pay taxes from December, 2010 forward, as this is the date legislative action was taken resolving the Charlemont/Hawley town line. Discussion ensued as to the fact that there was no proof ever submitted by the Shea's that their property was not located in Charlemont, and that both the Charlemont and Hawley Assessors have always agreed that the property was located in Charlemont, and therefore, was assessed as such. It was noted that the Shea's appear to be trying to sell the property. Millett explained that she was informed that the Town may invoke Chapter 40, section 57, which the Town has voted to accept, and which allows the Town to deny any application for building permit or other local license, to anyone who owes taxes, fees or other municipal charges. After some discussion, on a motion by Dean and seconded by Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously to invoke this law.
6. The Board reviewed the 2011 Town Report.
7. The Board reviewed a letter from the Building Inspector regarding no permit to do work at 1345 Route 2.
8. The Board reviewed the Appellate Tax Board report for 2011.
9. The Board reviewed their deeds and building reports for February, 2012.
10. At 8:00 p.m., Attorney Parsons came in to discuss the Shea property tax issue. Parsons stated that the Shea's were paying their taxes in Charlemont until it was brought to Mr. Shea's attention by a Select Board member in Hawley, who after walking the property line, believed that their property was not in Charlemont. Parsons stated that since the property was not formerly in Charlemont, his clients could therefore, not be held responsible. The Assessors stated that former and past Assessors have never agreed to this, that they have a letter from Hawley Assessors stating that they have no interest in the property, as it is being assessed in Charlemont. After further discussion, the Board notified Parsons that they needed to discuss the matter with their Counsel and would get back to him regarding this.

At 8:20 p.m., on a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Dean, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn their public meeting.

At 8:20 p.m., on a motion by Dean and seconded by Reynolds, 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

Voting no: None

Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene Millett,
Assessor's Secretary

List of Documents Viewed in Public Meeting of March 12, 2012*

1. Minutes from the meeting of 2/27/12.
2. 2012 motor vehicle commitment #1R.
3. Monthly list of abatements for January and February, 2012.
4. Invoice for Avery's Store, dated 2/3/12
5. Letter from Attorney Kevin Parsons, dated 3/5/12
6. Chapter 40, Section 57 of the General Laws of Massachusetts
7. The 2011 Town Report of the Assessors.
8. Letter from the Building Inspector regarding 1345 Route 2.
9. Appellate Tax Board report for 2011.
10. Deeds for February, 2012.
11. Building report for February, 2012.

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