

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

December 12, 2011

The meeting was convened at 7:35 p.m., with the following members present: Simon Dean; Chair, Sarah Reynolds and Jacqueline Cashin.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes from their 11/28/11 meeting. On a motion by Dean and seconded by Reynolds, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.
2. The Board reviewed their monthly list of abatements for November, 2011.
3. The Board reviewed and signed the Tax Rate Recap sheet, printed from Gateway.
4. The Board reviewed a bill schedule for postage stamps. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the bill for stamps.
5. The Board reviewed the deeds for November, 2011.
6. The Board reviewed the construction report for November, 2011.
7. The Board reviewed a letter from Franco Rossi, of Cartographic Associates, which stated that based upon review of data, it is their opinion that the Shea property lies entirely in the Town of Charlemont. The Board directed their Secretary to compose a letter to the Shea's noting that with the Charlemont/Hawley town line now resolved, it is expected that they will begin paying their property tax bills, and asked her to include Rossi's letter and supporting documentation regarding the town. It was discussed that the Shea's have not been paying their taxes for several years on the claim that they are not located in Charlemont; it was further noted that neither have they been paying taxes in Hawley.
8. Next, the Board discussed a letter from Cartographic Associates, which noted that because the Assessors did not elect to "piggyback" additional services with Cartographic that their parcels may not be able to be reconciled to MassGIS data. The Board noted that when Rossi came to a meeting to discuss this with the Board, that they were led to believe that the MassGIS project in itself would correct a lot of tax map inconsistencies, but now are being told that because they could not budget the extra money required to do the additional services, it will be difficult or impossible for Cartographic to transfer map corrections. The Board discussed this and the fact that the Board has had to make several requests to Rossi on numerous occasions in the past in order to get a response to their questions.
9. The Board reviewed and discussed their 2012 contract with Cartographic Associates. Dean noted that he was against signing the contract, as he feels the services provided to them from Cartographic have been less than acceptable, with a Board member often having to contact Rossi and demand a response after numerous attempts by the Secretary to contact him. Further, Dean felt that Rossi misrepresented the purpose of the MassGIS project to them. On a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Cashin, but with reservations, the Board voted 2:1 (with Dean voting against) to sign the 2012 contract with Cartographic Associates, as it was too late at this point to find another Mapper. The Board directed their Secretary to send a letter along with the signed 2012 contract to Cartographic citing their dissatisfaction, that they expect any outstanding issues to be resolved and a more timely response to their requests in the future. The Board also decided to research other mapping companies.
10. At 8:10 p.m., on a motion by Reynolds and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn their meeting.

At 8:10 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 sign the minutes from their last Executive Session meeting.

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 December 12, 2011*

1. Monthly list of abatements for November, 2011.
2. Page 1 of Tax Rate Recap sheet, printed from Gateway.
3. Bill schedule for postage stamps
4. Deeds for November, 2011.
5. Building construction report for November, 2011.
6. Letters from Cartographic Associates, dated 12/12/11
7. 2012 contract with Cartographic Associates, Inc.

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