

**CHARLEMONT BOARD OF ASSESSORS**  
**MAY 8, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**  
**CHARLEMONT ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

**Members Present/ Participating:**

Karen Rau; Chair, Jacqueline Cashin, Anthony Ostroski

Call to Order

Rau called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

#1: Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from their 4/10/2023 meeting. On a motion by Rau and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

#2: Board Discussion/Signatures

1. Brief explanation of proposed warrant articles for Town Meeting. Hayden explained that Select Board Chair Val Reid asked for a brief explanation of all warrant articles to help the voters understand what they were voting on. The Board reviewed the descriptions Hayden drafted and on a motion by Rau and seconded by Ostroski, the voted unanimously to approve them, as written.
2. Letter in support of H.2697; An Act to Reform Payments in Lieu of Taxes for State-Owned Land. Hayden explained that the Town/Boards were asked by Representative Arriaga's office to draft a letter of support of HD.2795 (now H.2697), a bill which will require the use of a more equitable method of calculating in lieu of tax payments for state-owned land. The current structure results in Towns with higher property values receiving a much higher reimbursement than those in the western part of the state, which have the lowest reimbursement for state-owned land. After reviewing the draft letter, Cashin stated that she believes she read in the ethics laws that public officials may not engage in political activity or lobbying in their capacity as elected officials. Hayden said she didn't think this was considered political lobbying, but Cashin felt it best to check with the State Ethics Commission to make sure. On a motion by Rau and seconded by Ostroski, the Board voted unanimously to table signing the letter until Cashin has received an answer from the Ethics Commission. Hayden asked her to let her know what they said as the Select Board and other Commissions were planning on drafting letters as well.

The Board reviewed/signed the following (Rau motioned, Ostroski seconded):

3. Motor vehicle excise Warrants to Collector 2022 #8 and 2023 #1
4. Monthly list of abatements for April, 2023
5. Monthly list of exemptions for April, 2023
6. Records of Abatement and Exemption for Fiscal Year 2023 and FY 2014-2022. Hayden explained that these were the official records of abatements and exemptions granted for each fiscal year and that she had just gotten behind on having the Board sign them.
7. The deeds for April, 2023
8. The building permits for March, 2023.
9. Upcoming Assessor's Roundtable meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Hayden will be attending and told the Board to let her know if they have anything they want her to ask about.

Adjournment

At 7:27 p.m. on a motion by Rau and seconded by Cashin, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn their meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to General Laws Chapter 59, Section 60, in order to deliberate on pending abatement and/or exemption applications and to not reconvene in open session afterwards. Roll Call vote: Rau-Yes, Cashin-Yes, Ostroski-Yes.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 5, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene Hayden,  
Assessor's Clerk

**Documents Viewed in Meeting of 5/8/2023\***

1. Agenda for meeting of 5/8/2023
2. Minutes for meeting of 4/10/2023
3. Brief explanation of proposed warrant articles for Town Meeting
4. Draft letter in support of H.2697; An Act to Reform Payments in Lieu of Taxes for State-Owned Land
5. Motor vehicle excise Warrants to Collector 2022 #8 and 2023 #1
6. Monthly list of abatements for April, 2023
7. Monthly list of exemptions for April, 2023
8. Records of Abatement and Exemption for Fiscal Year 2023 and FY 2014-2022
10. Deeds for April, 2023
11. Building permits for March, 2023
12. Notice of Assessor's Roundtable meeting May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**\*Documents are stored in their respective files in the Assessor's office.**