



**Town of Becket  
Board of Assessors  
557 Main Street  
Becket, Massachusetts 01223  
(413) 623-8934 ext. 118 fax (413) 623-6036**

[assessors@townofbecket.org](mailto:assessors@townofbecket.org)

**MEETING MINUTES**

October 2, 2023

Board Members Present: Geraldine Walter, Jessica Perotti and Beverly Gilbert

Board Members Absent: None

Associate Assessor Present: Chris Cozzaglio

Public Present: None

Town Staff Present: Kathe Warden, Town Administrator – *present from 1:57 pm until 2:03 pm*

Call to order: The meeting is called to order at 1:08 pm.

Review of meeting minutes from September 11, 2023: Following a brief discussion, the board agrees to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Jess makes a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023 with the noted correction. Bev seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Correspondence: As discussed below in *Any other business to come before the board*.

Old Business:

- Municipal COOP Checklist: Chris reports he and Jess started the plan and will first work on digitizing Assessor records. He points out that due to confidentiality concerns, it will require separate storage that can only be accessed by the Assessors' Department. He advises that John Shannon will be consulted.
- Appeals to Appellate Tax Board: update on hearing held September 25, 2023: Chris confirms Harald Scheid, President of Regional Resource Group, attended the ATB hearing regarding 61 Long Bow Lane Circle. He reports the hearing went well and are now waiting for the written decision in the mail. He further advises that the other ATB hearing, regarding 1110 Dimmock Road, has been rescheduled from October 10th to October 25, 2023.

New Business:

- Tax Rate Setting Schedule: Chris expects to have this ready for the next meeting.
- District Salaries, FY 2024: Chris advises this Commitment will be ready for signatures at the next meeting.
- Motor Vehicle Abatement Applications: Processed.
- Chapter 61 applications, FY 2025: Chris notes he will advise when the applications will be ready for review.

Assessor Update: Chris advises he has already discussed his updates in the meeting.

Public Input: None.

Any other business to come before the board:

- Jess asks Chris for an update regarding the request from the Town Administrator, Kathe Warden, for all PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) agreements. Chris advises he is waiting to get them from Harald.
- Jess asks about an email regarding vessel inventory in Becket; this would be for boats, sea-doo's and other various water vessels. Chris advises this excise tax should be being collected. During a brief discussion, Geri advises the amount that would be gained by collection is worth less than it would in costs to process the commitments. Chris says he will advise the state when he contacts them about the inventory. He asks Jess to forward the email and to print a hard copy of the vessel inventory. Jess agrees.
- Jess asks Chris for an update on the request to overturn an abatement submitted timely for FY 2023. He advises the taxes should have been taken care of when the sale took place. Jess advises she is not certain when the sale occurred but says that needs to be confirmed. She also notes a request from the Tax Collector's Office regarding an abatement for FY 2020 as the property owner opted out of the Sherwood Forest Lake District but was inadvertently billed. Chris asks that emails be sent to him regarding both inquiries. Jess confirms she will send the emails.
- Bev advises the magnetic signs that say "Town of Becket / Assessors Department" will be ready for pick-up on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Bev asks if everyone will be available to attend the Berkshire County Assessors' Association's 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Meeting at Greenock Country Club on October 25, 2023. Following a brief discussion, the board agrees to attend. Chris says he would also like to attend and will make his own arrangements.
- Bev asks, on behalf of the Town Administrator, about a 5K program that allows residents who qualify to work at Town Hall that will be compensated by taking money off their tax bills. The board agrees Kathe Warden should be consulted regarding her request. Bev asks Kathe to join the meeting. Kathe explains she would like to set up a 5K program and further clarifies that she would like a break-down that determines a residents' limit versus an overall town limit. Geri advises there is already such a program in place that includes income restrictions. Chris advises he will look at the overlay account and budget for next year.
- Jess asks if the information regarding "Why values change" on the website was updated. Chris advises he will draft something specific to Becket.

Adjournment: Jess makes a motion to adjourn. Bev seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. The meeting is adjourned at 2:04 pm.