



Town of Seekonk
Massachusetts
Board of Assessors

Seekonk Town Hall: Assessors Office

PAUL K. BUCKLEY, CHAIRMAN
NELSON ALMEIDA, VICE CHAIRMAN
EDWARD F. MCGOVERN, CLERK

LYDIA A. CORDEIRO, TOWN ASSESSOR
MAUREEN E. HASENFUS, ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

REGULAR MINUTES

January 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Chairman, Paul K. Buckley called the Board of Assessors Regular Meeting to order on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 6:01 PM. In attendance were Paul K. Buckley, Chairman; Nelson Almeida, Vice Chairman; Edward F. McGovern, Clerk; Lydia A. Cordeiro; Town Assessor; and Maureen Hasenfus, Assistant Town Assessor

1. **Approve the Regular Session Minutes of December 15, 2022**

Clerk McGovern raised the issue that it was not noted in the minutes that he objected to the citing of Ligation when going into Executive Session without there being any litigation. He has raised this issue multiple times and the minutes do not reflect it. Chairman Buckley asked for a motion to table these minutes until the next scheduled meeting. Clerk McGovern stated he is willing to vote on the minutes if the modifications are made.

Clerk McGovern motioned to approve the Regular Session Minutes of December 15, 2022 with the above modifications. Vice Chairman Almeida seconded. The vote: The vote: Paul K. Buckley – Aye, Nelson Almeida – Aye. Edward F. McGovern – Aye the Motion passed.

2. **Review Sign 2022 Warrants & Commitments for Motor Vehicle Excise Commitment 7 and 2023 Motor Vehicle Excise Commitment 1**

Town Assessor Cordeiro presented to the Board, Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Commitments #7 for 2022 and #1 for 2023. The Board reviewed and signed both Commitments.

3. **Community Speaks**

None

4. **Adjourn Regular Session and enter into Executive Session**

Chairman Buckley read the below:

- a. Approve and release the Executive Session Minutes of December 15, 2022 per G.L.c.30A Section 22 (f) and Section 22 (g) (Roll Call)
- b. Release the Executive Session Minutes of July 21, 2022, September 22, 2022, October 27, 2022 & November 16, 2022 per G.L.c.30A Section 22 (f) and Section 22 (g) (Roll Call)
- c. Review/Sign Real Estate Abatement & Exemption Reports for December, 2022 per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c.30A Section 21 (a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position (Roll Call)

- d. Review/Sign Approve/Deny Statutory Exemption Applications per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c.30A Section 21 (a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position (Roll Call)
- e. Review/Sign Approve/Deny Real Estate Abatement Applications per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c.30A Section 21 (a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position (Roll Call)
- f. Review/Sign Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement & Exemption Reports for December, 2022 per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c.30A Section 21 (a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position (Roll Call)
- g. Review/Sign Approve/Deny Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Applications and Denials per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c.30A Section 21 (a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position (Roll Call)
- h. Discuss FY'24 Chapterland Application per submitted list pursuant to G.L.c.30A Section 21 (a) (7) and G.L.c.59, Section 60; as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the Board's litigating position (Roll Call)
- i. Adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session (Roll Call)
A motion was made by Nelson Almeida, seconded by Paul Buckley to go into Executive Session. Accepted by 3-0 Vote. The vote Paul K. Buckley - Aye, Nelson Almeida - Aye, Edward F. McGovern - Aye. Clerk McGovern asked the Town Assessor if there were any pending ligations due to the fact that Litigation is not a reason to go into Executive Session. Town Assessor Cordeiro answered no at the moment. Town Assessor Cordeiro has reached out to the Town Administrator for advice on this matter. Clerk McGovern stated again that Ligation when there isn't any is not a reason to enter into Executive Session. He will be waiting to see the Town Administrator's answer.

5. **Discuss Monthly Assessors Report**

Town Assessor Cordeiro presented the December 2022 Assessors Report to the Board. Chairman Buckley suggested to add a cumulative column to the chart.

6. **Review/Sign FY'24 Commonwealth of MA Certificates for Forest Lands**

Assistant Assessor Hasenfus explained that two (2) Chapter 61 properties renewed their Forest Plan with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the need of the Chairman of the Board to sign the Certificate for Chapter 61/Chapter 61A Forest Lands. The Case numbers are 247-710 and 265-169. As one (1) signature is required Chairman Buckley signed both certificates.

7. **Review/Discuss Open Meeting Law Complaint and the Draft from Town Council**

Town Assessor presented to the Board the Draft from Town Counsel which was drafted regarding the Open Meeting Law (OML) Complaint filed by Edward McGovern, Clerk on January 14, 2023. Chairman Buckley and Vice Chairman Almeida needed to vote on approval of the draft. Chairman Buckley suggested the Town Assessor speak with our Town Counsel and strike out sentence after January 1st in the third (3rd) paragraph. Both Chairman Buckley and Vice Chairman Almeida agreed. Clerk McGovern had the following questions for Town Assessor Cordeiro: "What was the date you learned of these PILOTS?" Town Assessor Cordeiro said she did not have the exact date at that moment." Another question: "what were the implications if these documents were not signed at this meeting?" Town Assessor Cordeiro was not sure if interest would be added if the PILOT bills went out after the Tax Bills. Clerk McGovern stated that there is a lack of following the OML rules and

the urgency was not stated in the Open Minutes of the December 15, 2022. He will be filing a *legal finding* so there will be a record of his complaint.

8. **Discuss other topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours before the meeting**
Town Assessor Cordeiro shared with the three (3) members Motion to Take Deposition on the following Appellate Tax Board Hearings: Docket No.; 347558, Docket No.; 347559.; and Docket No., 347560.

Clerk McGovern requested that both the Open Session and Executive Session Minutes be signed by the Board. Chairman Buckley agreed to request and asked Town Assessor Cordeiro to add signature lines going forward.

Clerk McGovern asked that Real Estate Values be an Agenda item for the February meeting.

9. **Schedule next meeting**
Thursday February 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM

10. **Adjournment**
Clerk McGovern motioned to adjourn the Open Meeting Session Vice Chairman Almeida seconded.
The vote: Paul K. Buckley – Aye, Nelson Almeida – Aye Edward F. McGovern – Aye
The Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM

Paul K. Buckley, Chairman



Nelson Almeida, Vice Chairman



Edward F. McGovern, Clerk

Documents Distributed:

Regular Session Minutes December 15, 2022
2022 Motor Vehicle Tax Excise Commitment #7
2023 Motor Vehicle Tax Excise Commitment #1
December 2022 Monthly Assessor Report
FY'24 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Certificates for Forest Lands
Open Meeting Law Complaint
Draft from Legal regarding the Open Meeting Law Complaint
Letters from Legal regarding pending Appellate Tax Board (ATB) hearings