



**TOWN OF EASTHAM**  
**EASTHAM BOARD OF ASSESSORS**  
**Minutes of May 5, 2022 Meeting**  
**Small Meeting Room, Eastham Town Hall**

Present: Board members Wendy Walsh, Joanna Buffington, Denise Kopasz (remote)  
Principal Assessor Colleen Mercurio.

This meeting was held in-person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend this in-person meeting.

Denise Kopasz called the Session of the Board of Assessors to order at 11:03a.m. Roll call was taken. Denise Kopasz-Aye, Wendy Walsh-Aye, Joanna Buffington- Aye

Minutes from March 2, 2022:

Ms. Walsh made a motion to defer both the regular and executive session minutes of April 7, 2022, as only one member who was at that meeting is in attendance. Ms. Buffington seconded. The vote was unanimous to table both the regular and executive session minutes from 4/7/22. Ms. Walsh noted a few typographical errors that should be checked prior to voting on the minutes at our next meeting.

Director's Update:

Ms. Mercurio notified the board of a new hire, Alex Peterson, who would be starting in the Assessor's office the following Monday. She clarified that she was hired with the title of "Field Appraiser" and that training would ensue, with the eventual goal of promotion to Asst. Assessor. Alex is scheduled to begin 101 training next week. Additionally, Ms. Mercurio informed the board that the next motor vehicle commitment is in the works and will be going out by the month's end.

New Business

The deadline to sign the Verizon Settlement Agreement is nearing, so the topic was brought back to the table. Ms. Mercurio updated the board that upon looking back through the meeting minutes dated 5/2/2017, it was confirmed that Town Counsel was not consulted prior to entering into the initial agreement in 2017. She informed the board that she had emailed it to both Town Counsel and the TA this round. Ms. Mercurio explained that the State currently has 76% of its towns having signed the agreement and if they get 80%, the agreement will go into effect regardless of if we sign it or not. She noted the agreement would prevent our overlay from being tied up and prevent Verizon from suing the town, providing we didn't sue them first. One benefit we would gain from signing that we would not be privy to if we did not is that by signing it, under procedural provisions, we would have a right to request the form 59/41 from the DOR. Ms. Walsh made a motion to approve and sign the Verizon Agreement. Seconded by Ms. Buffington. The motion passed unanimously and Ms. Kopasz granted Ms. Buffington the authority to sign for the vice chair, as she was a remote participant.

The board went on to discuss the statutory Clause 41C Senior exemption limits. Ms. Mercurio informed the board that the town was already at the maximum allowable exemption amount of \$1000 and that they only adjustments that can be made now to make the exemption more accessible is to vote to adopt a local option of increasing the income and asset levels by the Consumer Price Index determined by the DOR. Ms. Mercurio was tasked with gathering additional details about this to discuss at the next meeting to the end of potentially recommending for a vote to allow these increases to be brought to town meeting later this year.


Other Business:

It was discussed that the board will go with a regular meeting schedule of the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 and make any changes as needed.

Ms. Buffington made a motion to convene in Executive Session at 11:39 a.m. to review and vote on statutory real estate exemptions per M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a) (7), to comply with the applicable General laws, including G.L c. 59, § 60 and G.L c.214, § 1B and not to reconvene in open session. Ms. Kopasz seconded, roll call was taken, Joanna Buffington-Aye, Wendy Walsh-Aye, Denise Kopasz- Aye.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Mercurio, Principal Assessor

Approved on: 6/7/22  
Date

By:   
W. Davis Hobbs  
W. Davis Hobbs