

Town Of Sandwich

THE OLDEST TOWN ON CAPE COD

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
ASSESSING DEPARTMENT



May 5, 2020

16 Jan Sebastian Drive
Sandwich, MA 02563-2319

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TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH

JUN 24 2020

10 H 34 M A *mlf*
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SANDWICH BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors meeting is called to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT via ZOOM: Robert James, Chair; Nick Fernandes, Vice Chair; Larry Harrington, Member and Ed Childs, Director of Assessing

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Harrington motions to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 4/21/2020 as written. Mr. Fernandes seconds. The vote is unanimous.

REVIEW & SIGN SIGNATURE ITEMS:

- Month Ends - April 2020

REVIEW ABATEMENTS/EXEMPTIONS:

Mr. Harrington motions to enter into Executive Session at 4:36 p.m. to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 21(a)(7) and M.G.L. Ch. 59 § 60 for the purpose of discussing abatements and exemptions and to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 22(f) for the review, potential approval and potential release of Executive Session meeting minutes 4/21/2020. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Harrington and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The Board reconvenes in Open Session at 4:53 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED:

Mr. Childs and the Board have a discussion on how Covid-19 may effect property valuations in the future. Other towns are discussing ways to reduce values. One Town has mentioned changing restaurant class codes to residential. The Board may get phone calls on FY'21 values as the preliminary bills are issued. Mr. Childs explains that the FY'21 values will be based on assessments as of January 1, 2020 and sales from 2019, which is prior to the pandemic. He wants to get the message out that even by reducing values; the levy must be calculated using this data. If values are decreased, the tax rate will only increase which will negate any sort of tax savings to residents. The only way to have any sort of savings would be to curb expenses and spending. Right now it is too premature to make any assumptions. Sales data that has come in over the last few months is not reflecting the pandemic. Mr. Childs feels this will be more of an issue in FY'22. He says it will be a hot topic this year. The Board feels a statement from the Town will eventually need to be released to the public regarding valuations for FY'21.

Mr. Harrington asks about the Board's next meeting. Mr. Childs has been urged not to have any more meetings until business resumes as usual. He feels they will not need to meet until mid-late June. He will be in touch with the Chair to discuss further.



Mr. James urges everyone to vote at the upcoming election on May 19th. There is a brief discussion on how to receive a mail in ballot from the Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Harrington motions to adjourn. Mr. Fernandes seconds. The vote is unanimous.

The meeting adjourns at 5:15 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Laura C. Watts, Recording Secretary
Cc: Town Clerk

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EXECUTIVE SESSION SANDWICH BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Harrington motions to enter into Executive Session at 4:36 p.m. to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 21(a)(7) and M.G.L. Ch. 59 § 60 for the purpose of discussing abatements and exemptions and to comply with M.G.L. Ch. 30A § 22(f) for the review, potential approval and potential release of Executive Session meeting minutes from 4/21/2020. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Harrington and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

PRESENT via ZOOM: Robert James, Chair; Nick Fernandes, Vice-Chair; Larry Harrington, Member and Ed Childs, Director of Assessing

Mr. Harrington motions to approve and release the Executive Session minutes from 4/21/2020 as written. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Harrington and Mr. James approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The following real estate and personal property abatements were reviewed and recommended for approval as they meet all the criteria for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on FY'20 real estate and personal property tax bills. (See Abatement Log dated 5/5/2020 Bill #8883-100730)

Mr. Harrington motions to approve the abatements. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. James and Mr. Harrington approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

The following real estate and personal property abatements were reviewed and recommended for denial because they did not meet all the criteria for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on FY'20 real estate tax bills. (See Abatement Denial Log dated 5/5/2020 Bill #1462-1166)

Mr. Harrington motions to deny the abatements. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Fernandes, Mr. James and Mr. Harrington approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Harrington motions to return to open session at 4:53 p.m. Mr. Fernandes seconds. Mr. Harrington, Mr. James and Mr. Fernandes approve the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura C. Watts, Recording Secretary
Cc: Town Clerk

Supporting Documents:

1. Sandwich Assessing Abatement Log, Bill #8883-100730, dated May 5, 2020 (1 page)

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2. Sandwich Assessing Abatement Denial Log, Bill #1462-1166, dated May 5, 2020 (1 page)