

Town of Dedham
Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 5:30 PM

Present: Cheryl Sullivan, Madam Chair, Richard Schoenfeld, Vice Chair, Mike Polito, Secretary
Kevin Doyle, Director of Assessments, Paul D'Olimpio Jr, Assistant Director of Assessments

Meeting called to order at 5:37 PM by the chair, Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. Sullivan led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Currently, no members of the public were in attendance, therefore no further public comments.

First on the agenda is the review and approval of minutes from March 29, 2022, meeting. Mr. Polito asked if we can make sure all recent Minutes are up to date and posted on the Town Website in one central location, as he believes there may be a couple missing, or in different locations. Mr. Doyle responded by stating that John Sisson, Dedham's Community Development Director, used to help update the website and will look into making sure all recent meeting Minutes are on the website, and in one central location. Mr. Polito and Ms. Sullivan stated that the minutes are done very well and certainly should be on the Town website.

The Board then reviewed, approved, and signed the weekly excise reports.

Next on the agenda is to review and sign the excise tax commitments. Mr. Doyle stated the first one is what should be the last commitment for 2021. The second one is the second commitment for 2022, which has 1154 excise bills. Mr. Doyle stated that there are typically 7-8 commitments each year. Mr. Doyle informed the Board that the first commitment is always the largest one, which is typically about 20,000 excise bills, followed by this evening's (1154), with the next four are usually around 800-1000 each.

The Board then reviewed, approved, and signed the real estate exemptions.

Mr. Doyle next presented the Real Estate and Personal Property abatements to the Board, in which they approved the individual applications at the previous meeting, and now need to sign the abatement reports.

At 5:50 PM, Mr. Schoenfeld made a motion to suspend the meeting to enter into Executive Session under MA General Laws, in particular, to act on requests for tax abatements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Polito. The regular meeting will reconvene at the end of Executive Session, and an Announcement of Action Taken will be recorded (see attached).

At 6:10 PM, Mr. Schoenfeld makes a motion to reconvene back to the regular meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Polito. The announcement of Action Taken is attached.

Under Old/New Business: (prior to the start of tonight's BOA meeting, Town Clerk Paul Munchbach swore in both Mr. Schoenfeld on a new, three-year term, along with Mr. Polito, on a new, one-year term. He had both men take the oath and congratulated them afterwards).

Ms. Sullivan would like to take this time to let the fellow members know she thoroughly enjoyed being the first chairwoman of this Board, and recognized Mr. Doyle for running a tight ship, and acknowledging the board would not be as thorough and productive without him. She commended Mr. Doyle for the way his office is run and pointed out that he had tough shoes to fill (a nod to prior Director Mr. Henderson) and has done so admirably. Mr. Polito echoed those sentiments. Ms. Sullivan then congratulated both Mr. Schoenfeld and Mr. Polito for being re-elected. Mr. Schoenfeld took this time to also thank Mr. Doyle and his entire office for all the work that was done, which was seamless and without a hitch.

Mr. Polito stated he's been watching how other Boards handle their reorganizations at this time of year and asked when does Dedham's BOA intend to do theirs? Mr. Doyle stated that it typically happens at the next meeting held right after the election, to which Mr. Schoenfeld then stated that the board can do this evening. Mr. Schoenfeld then stated, as is customary, now is the time to reorg the Board (which next in rotation would move Mr. Schoenfeld to Chair, Mr. Polito to Vice Chair and Ms. Sullivan to Secretary).

At this time, Mr. Polito made a motion to nominate Mr. Schoenfeld as chairman of Board, to which Ms. Sullivan seconded. All members voted unanimously. Next, Mr. Schoenfeld recommended to make a motion to make Mr. Polito Vice Chair, to which Ms. Sullivan made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Schoenfeld. All members voted unanimously. Next, Mr. Schoenfeld stated that he would like to take this time to thank Ms. Sullivan for a great job she did as Chairwoman. Mr. Polito shared the same sentiments. Mr. Doyle stated that he would like to also thank Ms. Sullivan for her time and commitment as Chair, and that he is happy to see all members return to the Board for another year, as it's important to have continuity. Mr. Schoenfeld recommended making a motion to have Ms. Sullivan become Secretary. Mr. Polito made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Schoenfeld. All members voted unanimously.

Mr. Doyle then stated he would also like to take this time to update the Board and let them know that Colleen Mcgourty, the newly hired Assessing Specialist, is doing a fantastic job, as she's a fast-learner and overall great addition to the team. He wanted to thank Sue Munchbach for stepping up as usual, while not only doing a fantastic job in the Assessing Department, but also being a huge asset to onboarding Colleen (and Derek). Mr. Doyle then gave an update that Derek Sergi has begun exterior inspections and doing a great job as well and has been working closely with Mr. D'Olimpio. Mr. Doyle notes how not only is he getting thru exterior-based permits, but that those visits count towards the Town's cyclical requirements. He's very excited that the office is finally back at full capacity (first time since August 2021).

At this time, having no other Old/New Business to discuss, Mr. Polito made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. At 6:35 PM, Mr. Schoenfeld adjourned the meeting.