

**TOWN OF SOMERS
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

David Olsen, Co-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Assessor's office in Town Hall. Robert Loubier, Co-Chairman, Joanna Wheeler, Board Member, Gregory Simmons, Chief Financial Officer, and Patricia Juda, Assessor, were in attendance. Also in attendance were Cory Wheeler and Dan McDonald as part of their civics class assignment.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2009.

Approval of the minutes will be placed on the agenda of the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

4. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REPORT

- December 16, 2009 – Last claim form sent to OPM for Renter's Rebate for 57 recipients.
- September 21, 2009 – Board of Assessors heard two motor vehicle appeals reducing the 2008 Grand List by \$6,950.00, or \$153.66 in taxes.
- The 2008 Supplemental Grand List taxable assessment totaled 6,332,380 for 1,338 vehicles. The 2007 Supplemental Grand List totaled 7,519,093 with 1,530 vehicles.
- The 2009 Motor Vehicle Grand List is approximately 3,000,000 more than the 2008 list. The 2009 Personal Property Grand List is also showing growth over last years' list by approximately \$2,000,000.

Bob made a motion to accept the Assessor's report as one of progress. This motion was seconded by Dave and unanimously approved.

5. 2009 REVALUATION

- Assessment notices should be mailed within a few days to every property owner.
- Hearings will take place during the 2nd & 3rd week of January.
- Residential class increased 7%.
- Commercial/Industrial has increased 19%.
- Overall increase is 7.5%
- The trend is for high end homes to experience a decrease in value, while the lower valued home market was strong and they will be seeing an increase in their assessments.
- We are behind on the contracted schedule; however we anticipate finishing on time.
- Everyone underestimated the work that was necessary. Vision spent four months discovering discrepancies between our field cards and the maps and I spend four months in the vault resolving these issues. I have identified a great deal of updates need to be made on the assessor's maps.
- We also had to research over 1200 parcels for their deed date. Our current records did not have that information. In the new Vision software, it is necessary to distinguish the current owner from a prior owner.
- Another snag was that when Vision attempted to load the latest version of their software, we discovered it needed an operating system of Windows XP or greater to run. We were running on Windows 2000.
- We are going to use one of our old computers updated to Windows XP for the counter and are purchasing two new computers loaded with XP for our desktops at a cost of \$369.00 each..
- All of the Vision employees involved in this project have been professional, dedicated to this job, and driven to do the best job possible.

Bob made a motion to recommend that a Grand List filing extension of one month be requested if needed. This motion was seconded by Dave and unanimously approved.

6. BILLS TO BE PAID

The following bills were presented:

Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc.

8/31/2009	\$15,156.00
9/30/2009	17,693.00
10/30/2009	18,105.00
11/30/2009	5,489.00
12/31/2009	6,782.00

4 Memberships to C.A.A.O.

\$ 280.00

Quality Data Service, Inc.

\$ 1,100.00

Hartford Area Assessor's Assoc.

\$ 20.00

Dave made a motion to approve all the of bills as presented with one exception; to purchase only two memberships to CAAO, one for the Bob Loubier and one for Pat Juda. This motion was seconded by Joanna and unanimously approved.

7. ADOPT SCHEDULE FOR 2010 REGULAR MEETINGS

Meetings will be held in the Town Hall Assessor's Office at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

February 4, 2010

March 4, 2010

April 1, 2010

May 6, 2010

June 3, 2010

July 1, 2010

August 5, 2010

September 2, 2010

October 7, 2010

November 4, 2010

December 2, 2010

January 6, 2011

Joanna made a motion to accept this meeting schedule. This motion was seconded by Bob and unanimously approved.

8. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience participation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 6:40. The motion was seconded by Joanna and unanimously approved.

Patricia J. Juda
Secretary

David Olsen
Co-Chairman