

**Minutes of the Board of Assessors
Meeting of February 8, 2007**

A meeting of the Board of Assessors was held on Thursday, February 8, 2007 in the Auditorium at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Chair, Marylou Blaisdell.

Members Present

Marylou Blaisdell

Kevin Moriarty

Dominic D'Antoni

Assessing Staff Present

Douglas Dame
Cheryl Walley

Angelo Marino

Louise Brown

Minutes of the Meeting:

Minutes for the meeting held on January 11, 2007 were approved unanimously.

Abatement Requests Presented:

Approvals/denials are available in the Assessor's Office. Regarding a proposed settlement the Board received for a 2005 abatement on property located at 40 Chestnut Street, Commercial Appraiser Douglas Dame advised the Board that the taxpayer is not willing to settle quite yet as there is amount due and owing on the account and the abatement will be processed as a credit to the account. Since the property has been sold since the abatement was filed, it is the current owner who owes these taxes. The person who filed for the abatement would not receive a check for the full amount of the abatement and the current owner would benefit with the account credited. The new owner is in the process of applying for a 2007 charitable exemption and may be under the impression that the 2006 taxes will be exempt as well. Mr. Dame said that the two parties need to work it out since this is not an assessing matter.

Appointments: none

Old Business:

Regarding the property located at 1081 West Hollis Street, Mr. Dominic D'Antoni inquired as to whether or not the owner Mr. Paul Levesque has followed up on putting his property in current use as was suggested at the last meeting when Mr. Levesque addressed the Board. Chief Assessor Angelo Marino advised that Mr. Levesque has met with Commercial Appraiser Bob Lakeman and is in the process of having the property put into current use.

Staff Items:

Mr. Marino advised the Board that he went to the Finance Committee and has gotten approval for Appraiser Steve Traub to do appraisals for Macy's, Sears, Nashua Mall and BAE and for Attorney Jamee McNamee to represent the City on pending appeals for Macy's, Sears and the Nashua Mall. BAE won't be coming up until six months or so down the line. Chair Marylou Blaisdell asked which attorney will be retained by the City for BAE's appeal. Mr. Marino replied the Aldermen do not feel that the City should go with a sole bidder without soliciting other proposals. They feel this is not a good practice. Chair Blaisdell wondered if the Aldermen understand that Attorney McNamee has done this work for the City before and has the experience necessary. Mr. Marino answered he thinks they understand that but do not understand that, so we may interview other attorneys.

Mr. D'Antoni said he was in the Pheasant Lane Mall recently and there are 3 or 4 big areas that are vacant. Mr. Kevin Moriarty noted that the Eddie Bauer store is vacant. Mr. Marino said that the big name retailers are going to free-standing big box properties, they want the free space.

Mr. Marino advised the Board that so far about 92 abatements have been filed for 2006 and already about 34 of these have been addressed, but staff is still working on building permits as well as working on sales verifications. The case load for 2005 has put a big damper on things. Between BTLA and court we have a number of cases, with over 40 in the court, so this is dragging our resources down.

MOTION BY Marylou Blaisdell to adjourn at 8:14 AM.

SECONDED BY Dominic D'Antoni.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Transcribed by
Cheryl Walley
Department Coordinator