Board of Assessors February 25, 2021

Members Present: Rosemary Stewart, Chairperson; Relf Fogg (via zoom); Kenneth Paul and Cynthia Bickford, Assessing Technician.

Mrs. Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present: Jim Miller ran the video and the Zoom meeting.

Appointments - None.

<u>Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment</u> – Ms. Bickford indicated the Board had processed an Intent to Cut for Wakefield Tax Map 176, Lot 6 in between the regularly scheduled meetings.

At the last meeting, it was discussed Ms. Bickford would make a video outlining the process to file for an Abatement. Ms. Bickford apologized, she had been out of the office for a few days which was unexpected and did not have enough time to make the video (the due date for Abatement Applications is March 1). This will be done over the next few months and readily available for the upcoming year.

<u>New Business</u> – (a) Consolidated Communications dba/Northern NE Telephone (Map 179, Lot 15). The company has filed an Abatement for 2020 and the appeal has been forwarded to George Sansoucy (utility appraiser).

Old Business - None.

<u>Correspondence</u> – (a) Request for Waiver of Interest – Map 45, Lot 46. The owners of Map 45, Lot 46 have requested a waiver of interest in the amount of \$119.71 for 2020 which includes interest for both the first and second issue tax bills. The owners have owned the property since 1998 and moved a few years ago. The owners failed to file an address change with the Town.

The Tax Collector uses an outsourcing company each billing cycle and in order to obtain the bulk rate of 0.38 cents vs. 0.55 cents the company is required to use the NCOA Report (a report maintained by the USPS and contains people who move or change their address). The outsourcing company in the past has warned us about changing the addresses based these reports due to the fact the change could be a temporary move, summer or winter address.

Ms. Bickford indicates there are many returns each billing cycle and it has always been the responsibility of the owner to notify the Town of an address change. Ms. Bickford advised the Board the Tax Collector offers both duplicate bills and emailed tax bills. The Tax Kiosk is available on the Town's website and the Assessing Software is now capable of handling multiple owners with different mailing addresses.

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Mr. Fogg moved to deny the request for the waiver of interest. Mrs. Stewart seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Administrative Matters - (a) Intent to Cut - None.

- **(b) Timber Tax Warrant.** The Board reviewed a Timber Tax Warrant which included Map 31, Lot 28 in the amount of \$111.98 and Map 34, Lot 99-2 in the amount of \$25.92; the total amount of the warrant is \$137.90. Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the Timber Tax Warrant in the amount of \$137.90. Mr. Fogg seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.
- (c) Tax Credits and Exemptions. The Board reviewed the following Veterans Tax Credits: Map 149, Lot 49; Map 23, Lot 7; Map 183, Lot 12; Map 5, Lot 32; Map 67, Lot 84 and Map 108, Lot 34. Mr. Fogg moved to approve the previously mentioned tax credits. Mrs. Stewart seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Elderly Exemptions. The following exemptions are existing elderly exemptions, the applicants are required to file annually to verify income and asset information. Map 53, Lot 17; Map 77, Lot 22 and Map 121, Lot 1. Mr. Fogg moved to approve the elderly exemptions as presented. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

- (c) Land Use Change Tax Warrant None.
- (d) Abatement Application(s) None.
- (e) Board Minutes January 28, 2021. Mr. Fogg moved to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes with any amendments offered. Mrs. Stewart seconded the motion with no amendments, the motion passed 3-0.
- (f) Next Meeting Date. March 25, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment – None.

Mr. Fogg indicated he would not be able to attend the Non-Public Session and exits the meeting via zoom.

Non-Public Session: - Mr. Paul moved to enter into Non-Public Session referencing RSA 91-A:3 II(a) at 8:25 a.m. Mrs. Stewart seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. Stewart – aye; Mr. Paul – aye. The motion passed 2-0 and the Board immediately entered Non-Public Session.

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The Board returned to public session at 8:42 a.m. During the immediately preceding Non-Public Session the Board prepared/reviewed an evaluation for Cynthia Bickford.

<u>Adjournment</u> – There being no further business, Mr. Paul moved to adjourn at 8:43 a.m. Mrs. Stewart seconded the motion, the motion passed 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Bickford Assessing Technician

Approval of Minutes:

Rosemary Stewart, Chairperson

Relf Fogg

Kenneth Paul