

Town of Dedham

Board of Assessors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 6:00PM

Present: Chris Polito, Chairman, Richard Schoenfeld, Vice Chairman, Richard Henderson, Director of Assessments, Kevin Doyle, Assistant Director of Assessments

Not Present: John Healy, Clerk

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM in the Selectmen's Room by Chairman Polito.

No members of the public attended the meeting; therefore no public comment.

The Board then reviewed and signed Excise Abatements.

The last topic on the Agenda is the discussion on the Overlay Balance and Surplus. Mr. Polito began by stating during his review he identified that with the exception of one, there are minimum liabilities with the Residential Abatements that were filed for FY17. Mr. Polito stated that after his review of abatement applications that have been granted, denied and no action taken yet at this time plus any potential liability along with the Uncollectible Personal Property and outstanding ATB cases (Verizon, RCN) and potential liabilities totaled roughly \$2.9-\$3mil. With the Overlay Balance at roughly \$5.9mil, Mr. Polito determined that there was roughly \$2.9mil in Overlay Surplus and would recommend to transfer \$2mil now and another \$1mil in August when the Board knows what ATB Cases have been filed and who has decided not to file and a better understanding of what is needed to remain in the Overlay Account to cover all liabilities at that point. Mr. Henderson stated that the Assessing Department along with the Board of Assessors knew last October roughly what the Surplus was estimated to be and in his review, Mr. Henderson recommended to transfer roughly \$3.4mil as he had stated and recommended previously. Mr. Henderson went on to state that he was even more comfortable with transferring \$3.4mil at this point after his discussions with some of the Abatement Applicants as well as Attorney Ambriano who represents the Town of Dedham in the Verizon case and had stated that both sides have come to a verbal agreement on a settlement number and both sides are actively working on revising the terms of the Agreement before it can be finalized. Mr. Henderson stated in his analysis, he had included what he felt would be worst case scenarios for the abatements filed as well as if the Verizon case did not settle at the numbers that were verbally agreed to. Mr. Henderson went on to say that he appreciates and understands Mr. Polito's analysis and his conservative approach to make sure there are sufficient Funds in the Overlay Account to cover any and all potential liabilities as well as any

unknown liabilities that may come about. Mr. Henderson stated that to be fair, he is willing to compromise with the Board and recommends transferring \$3.2mil. With Mr. Healy not being present for the meeting, the Board may not be able to come to a unanimous vote and may have to hold off on a vote, which the next step as stated during the previous meeting would be a letter drafted from the Board of Selectmen requesting to certify the Accounts. Mr. Polito and Mr. Schoenfeld both agreed to a transfer of \$3.2mil with an understanding that going forward the Board of Assessors along with the Assessing Department should look to analyze the Overlay Account and Surplus in October when the abatement applications have all been acted on and it is known which applicants have filed with the ATB. Mr. Schoenfeld stated that going forward he would like to have the analysis and numbers ahead of time, prior to the meetings. At this point, the Board drafted and signed a letter addressed to Mr. Kern certifying the Overlay Account and to transfer \$3.2mil from the Overlay Account to the Fund Balance Reserved for Overlay Released by the Assessors for Expenditures (see attached).

At 7:10PM, having no other business, Mr. Schoenfeld made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was second by Mr. Polito.