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**TOWN OF LUNENBURG
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
P.O. BOX 135
LUNENBURG, MA. 01462**

Minutes from the Board of Assessors meeting held: June 4, 2013

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm. Present: Chairman, Louis J. Franco, Board Members, Christopher Comeau, Matthew J. Papini, Sr., Regional Assessor, Harald Scheid, and Louise Paquette, Administrative Assistant.

Board reviewed and approved current expense vouchers, abatements, warrants, and payroll. Minutes from the May 14th meeting will be available for review at next month's meeting.

Louise gave a brief update regarding the FY14 preliminary real estate billing.

Community Software Consortium Membership Update: Louise reported that the General Membership Dues will increase by \$100.00 for fiscal year 2014. Harald informed the Board that the CSC CAMA has been working on program enhancement for valuing condos. CSC is seeking approval expenditure for the condo redesign and misc. expenditures. Harald explained that the project cost is approx. \$17,200 and the monies are available within the membership's budget; the ballot merely is for the approved release of those funds. The Board voted unanimously to support the project and Louis signed the ballot.

Harald reported that he has spoken with the Town Manager requesting that RRG be given a one month extension on the contract. This was approved.

RFP: The Board reviewed the scope of services and was satisfied and unanimously voted to accept the "language" for item (p): Provide the services of an associate assessor specifically assigned to Lunenburg and such other staff required to fulfill the above scope of services. The associate assessor will be in the Lunenburg office a minimum of 45 calendar days throughout the year and be dedicated to serving Lunenburg an additional 45 calendar years either on-site, or remotely from an off-site location. Chris made note that the item staff coverage support was omitted from the scope. Harald added an additional item (q) stating: "provide the assistance of a relief administrative clerk (per diem to be quoted in the non-price proposal)". After discussion, the Board voted to accept the RFP and it will be submitted to Kerry for review and approval.

Harald spoke to the Board regarding a letter sent to the office from an attorney in Springfield. The letter was to alert us of an important real estate tax exemption case which could have a significant local impact. The case involves the New England Forestry Foundation, Inc. seeking charitable exemption classification. The ATB upheld the decision of the Board of Assessors in Hawley, MA stating that NEFF did not occupy the property, because it did not put the property to an active use for a charitable purpose. The Supreme Judicial Court has taken the case for direct review. If NEFF succeeds, the "occupation" requirement will be greatly weakened and the result could be the loss of taxable status for land in many communities and will affect the tax status of land held by other non-profits for conservation purposes. Harald reported that he has responded to the attorney in support of the ATB's decision.

Board voted to meet on Tuesday, July 2nd at 6 pm. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Louise Paquette
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Board of Assessors