

Tax Classification Committee - Meeting Minutes

Town of Hingham

Tax Classification Study Committee

September 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

East Hearing Room, Third floor Town Hall

Present: Committee voting members Michael Shaughnessy and Ben Burnham, Non voting members Richard Nowlan, Director of Assessing and Tax Alexiades, Town Administrator

Call to order:

Chairman Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm as posted

Mr. Shaughnessy acknowledged the two guests

Mr. Shaughnessy confirmed the purpose of the committee is to study the tax classification and split rate issue. This first meeting is a planning meeting.

The committee will be reviewing Hingham statistics and assessment data, information on tax classification from the Department of Revenue and other towns, etc.

The committee reviewed a package compiled by Assessor Nowlan and information in the annual report as to town historical financial statistics.

The package provided to each member included :

Proposed tax assessment totals for Fy 14 (Residential and Commercial/Industrial)

List of tax rates for area towns (with and without Split rates). State wide 30% of towns/cities have a split rate

List of the tax rates for all cities and town in the state

List of all commercial/Industrial properties in Hingham with their proposed Fy 14 assessments

Information from the Department of Review about classification hearings

Information from the State regarding small commercial exemptions

Chairman Shaughnessy will email all members a copy of the 125 page DOR Tax classification report

The committee will review this information and discuss it further at the next meeting.

Chairman Shaughnessy said that the committee will meet as many times as is necessary to properly review and analyze the information and to make a recommendation to the Board of selectman. The Committee would like to be able to provide this recommendation prior to the classification hearing that will take place later in the year.

It was suggested that the notice of the next meeting be published in the newspaper. It was also suggested that we invite Peter Forman from the Chamber of Commerce to the meeting. It was also suggested that we invite Mark Tyburski, a former elected Assessor, to the meeting. Mr. Tyburski, a Hingham business owner has indicated in the past that there may be some merit to a split rate. By placing a notice of the meeting in the newspaper and inviting Mr. Forman and My Tyburski, it will give the committee the ability to hear varied opinions in addition to giving the public ability to participate.

Chairman Shaughnessy made the motion for Assessor Nowlan to contact Peter Forman, and Mark Tyburski and to place an article in the newspaper of the date, time and agenda of the next meeting. Second by Mr. Burnham, all in favor.

In addition chairman Shaughnessy made a motion to set the next meeting for October 1, 2013 at 5:00 pm, second Mr. Burnham, all in favor.

Mr. Edward Colbert, a committee member, was unable to make this first meeting. Assessor Nowlan will contact Mr. Colbert to make sure this time works for him. If it does not, then the meeting time can be changed. Assessor Nowlan will then contact Mr. Forman and Mr. Tyburski in addition to posting the meeting and placing an article in the newspaper.

Mr. Shaughnessy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Mr. Burnham second all in favor

Respectfully submitted

Richard G. Nowlan, committee member