

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Norwich Board of Listers 14 May 2015, noon, Tracy Hall**

Present: Cheryl A. Lindberg (Acting Chair), Lee Michaelides (Listers); Bill Krajeski, Matt Krajeski (Assessors); Neil Fulton (Town Manager); Jonathan Bynum (Clerk & Scribe)

Absent: Liz Blum (Lister Chair)

In the absence of Blum, Lindberg called the meeting to order at noon.

### **1. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

### **2. Public Comments**

No members of the public were present.

### **3. Approval of minutes of Lister meeting of 3 April 2015**

Michaelides **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lindberg) to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion **passed 2-0**.

### **4. Review of 2015 Abstract**

Bill Krajeski circulated a report listing 331 Change of Appraisal notices. Krajeski said that there had been a recent settlement in the Lake/Polashenski lawsuit, and that this was reflected in the Change list. Fulton observed that there was now no pending litigation pertaining to either the 2013 or the 2014 Grand List.

Bill Krajeski continued that properties changed in assessment in 2015 for several reasons, of which the most common were changes due to permitted construction, and changes for data corrections stemming from the cyclic reappraisal program. Other property owners are receiving notice due to a change in their Homestead/Housesite allocation caused by a declared rental or business use. A few property owners have no change, but are receiving a notice at their request to remind them that it is time to grieve if they wish.

Lindberg asked whether the Twin Pines properties (subsidized housing covenant) had been entered as instructed by the Listers, according to the new State guidelines. Krajeski said they had.

Lindberg then asked about the three properties on the change list that were receiving notices due to changes in their neighborhood code. Bill Krajeski explained that, while the GIS software is still not functioning properly, it did allow him to detect some properties that had been previously miscoded.

Lindberg then questioned the assessment of the ABC Dairy property, which is not on the list of those receiving a Notice. Bill Krajeski said that, even though the property might have been offered to the Town for a higher price, he is confident in his current assessment and strongly recommends against changing it.

There followed a brief discussion of a few other parcels and the reasons behind the changes to their assessments.

Bill Krajeski then distributed a reconciliation, showing how the 2014 Final Grand list underwent changes to become the 2015 Preliminary Grand List, with a net addition of \$3,525,300 before deductions for Current Use and other exemptions.

Michaelides then **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lindberg) to approve the 2015 Abstract (Preliminary Grand List). Motion **passed 2-0**.

## **5. Grievance Process**

Lindberg had been to a VLCT-organized workshop on Tax Appeals, and she related some of the points that had been brought up to do with publicizing the completion of the Abstract and the distribution of the Notices.

Lindberg continued that there is a difference of opinion between the Secretary of State's interpretation of the Statute and the VLCT's interpretation of the Statute on when the grievance deadline should fall. In brief, the Secretary of State asserts that the deadline should be the end of the **first** day of grievance hearings, and the VLCT asserts that it should be the end of the **final** day of grievance hearings.

After discussion, the Listers instructed Bynum to stick with the 5 pm EDT, 1 June 2015 deadline (as had already been disseminated), but that late-filed grievances might be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Listers.

## **6. Review of 2015 non-Homestead Filer List for Return to the Department of Taxes**

It was agreed that the Listers would meet again at 9 am on 29 May 2015 to go through this list.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Lindberg will send copies of the PowerPoint slides from the VLCT workshop to Michaelides.

At 1:25 pm, Michaelides **moved** (2<sup>nd</sup> Lindberg) to adjourn. Motion **passed 2-0**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lindberg, Acting Chair  
Norwich Board of Listers