

Town of Norwich, Vermont

Office of the Listers

Draft Minutes for the Meeting of Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Attending: Listers – Cheryl A. Lindberg, Jonathan Vincent, Ernie Ciccotelli
Spencer Potter – Contract Assessor
Public – Linda Cook, Omer Trajman, Laura Brown, Norman Levy,
Marjorie Waters, Timothy Brownell and Charlotte Metcalf

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. The first order of business was to elect the Chair of the Board of Listers. Vincent nominated Lindberg, Ciccotelli seconded. No other nominations were made. Lindberg elected by unanimous vote.
3. The agenda was reviewed and an amendment was made to add a discussion the contract for the contract Assessor. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. There was no public comment or correspondence.
5. Review of alternate energy generation exemptions - Lindberg provided a historical narrative about the reasons why the Listers believe an exemption for three parcels on the Grand list exist. The State of Vermont, Property Valuation and Review (PV&R) contacted the Listers and asked that these exemptions be removed from the Grand list. The Listers reached out to the three owners and invited them to this meeting. Questions from Metcalf and Brownell/Waters were answered by the Listers. Potter explained that once the error in the application of the exemption was noticed by PV&R the Listers must correct it. After considerable discussion, among the homeowners, Listers, and Assessor, it became clear that the exemptions do not apply. Potter stated that these exemptions were not properly applied and that they should be removed. A motion to remove the exemptions from the Grand list was made by Vincent, seconded by Ciccotelli. The Motion was passed unanimously.

6. Form PVR-317-Vermont Property Tax Public, Pious, or Charitable Exemption - Norwich Farm Foundation (NFF) application – Trajman gave a brief update on the new application for tax exemption submitted to the Board of Listers. Responding to questions by Lindberg, Omer Trajman explained the application as to how the claims in the application had been determined, and how they complied with state law. Vincent and Ciccotelli requested clarification of statements made by Trajman. Potter stated that due to the retail operation on the property, NFF does not qualify. Lindberg agrees with Potter and also doesn't see that the mission of LuckyUs LLC is aligned with the mission of NFF. Vincent added that he doesn't find the educational programs sufficient at this time to qualify as a public benefit and doesn't agree that the case law of Sigler Foundation v. Town of Norwich (807 A.2d 442) applies.
7. A motion to grant the exemption was made by Ciccotelli but failed due to a lack of a second. A motion to deny the exemption was made by Vincent, seconded by Lindberg. After further discussion in which Lindberg reminded everyone that this can be re-visited a year from now should NFF submit PVR-317 again the motion passed 2 to 1 (Vincent and Lindberg YES; Ciccotelli NO).
8. The remaining agenda items were then tabled due to the time being 4:55 p.m. The Board of Listers will meet again next Wednesday, March 22nd to finish the agenda.
9. Motion to adjourn made by Vincent, seconded by Ciccotelli, and voted unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully,

Cheryl A. Lindberg, Chair
Board of Listers