***MINUTES OF MEETING------------------------------------------------------AUGUST 10, 2022***

*Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M. Assessor Chairman Kenneth O’Brien, Assessor Kevin Rudden, Assessor Susan Edmonds and Principal Assessor Jean Berthold are present. This meeting is being held in person, remote and being recorded. Roll call vote, Edmonds, aye, Rudden, aye, O’Brien, aye.*

*Chairman O’Brien recognizes a participant who is attending the meeting virtually known only as KM. KM is requesting information regarding having regular public meetings that the Assessor’s would have to discuss current affairs in the Assessor’s Office. Chairman O’Brien responds that the work of the Assessor’s Office is completed during business hours and if they have any inquiries, they can contact the Principal Assessor. Chairman O’Brien feels that meetings are only necessary if there is something to discuss and as most of the meetings consist of approving minutes and signing monthly reports only, there is no need to have regular meetings especially, in his experience, no one usually attends. KM inquiries who is completing the data collection and who actually does the “assessing.” Chairman O’Brien responds that the Principal Assessor and a professional data collector have been completing the task of data collecting and the Principal Assessor performs the assessing. Chairman O’Brien explains that several years ago the Board of Assessors members would perform the data collection along with the Principal Assessor and were each being paid a $2,600 stipend annually. When it became impossible for the members to continue this practice, they reduced their annual stipend to $250 per year each member, $300 for the Chairman and utilized the remaining $7,000 for the professional data collector, therefore, at no additional expense to the Town. Assessor Kevin Rudden added that most municipalities in Massachusetts hire a professional data collector or have a data collector as a member of their staff. Chairman O’Brien advised that the Board does do some visitations when necessary, such as for abatements.*

*Motion made by Sue and seconded by Kevin to approve the minutes of June 27, 2022. Roll call vote, Edmonds, aye, Rudden, aye and O’Brien aye.*

*Motion made by Kevin and Ken steps down as Chairman to approve the Executive Session minutes of June 27, 2022. Roll call vote, Rudden, aye, O’Brien, aye.*

*The Board signs the end of month Motor Vehicle Abatements Report.*

*The Board signs two bills for submission of reimbursement for the Amherst schooling that was attended by Ken O’Brien, Kevin Rudden and Jean Berthold.*

*The Board discusses the Open Meeting Law Violation letter and determination from the Attorney General’s Office. Assistant Attorney General Carrie Benedon advises that they have found the BOA violated the Open Meeting Law by deliberating via email outside of a posted meeting. The AG’s office is ordering the Board’s immediate and future compliance with the Open Meeting Law and cautions the Board that a determination by their office of a similar violation in the future may be considered evidence of intent to violate the OML. They further order the Board to make the emails available to the public by ways of reading them aloud at an open meeting or by attaching the emails to the minutes of an open meeting. Chairman O’Brien reads the original complaint filed by Mark Reil which includes the chain of emails in violation. After fully reading the emails, Chairman O’Brien advises that copies of said emails along with the memo regarding the removal of the Principal Assessor from the Town Hall Union will be attached to the minutes.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kevin Rudden, Clerk*

*MINUTES APPROVED: 10/19/2022*