***MINUTES OF MEETING--------------------------------------------------FEBRUARY 16, 2021***

*Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M. Assessor Chairman Kevin Rudden is present via telephone, Assessor Susan Edmonds, Assessor Ken O’Brien and Principal Assessor Jean Berthold are present.*

*Motion made by Ken and seconded by Sue to approve the minutes of January 19, 2021. Unanimous vote.*

*The Board signs the end of month Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Abatements Report. Kevin advises that he grants permission to Jean to sign for him.*

*The Board signs the end of month Real Estate Tax Exemption end of month report. Kevin advises that he grants permission to Jean to sign for him.*

*The Board discusses the Fiscal Year 2021 Real Estate & Personal Property Tax Abatement Applications.*

*Motion made by Ken and seconded by Sue to grant an abatement to a property located at 9 George Street due to a mistake regarding parcel size. Unanimous vote.*

*Motion made by Sue and seconded by Ken to grant an abatement to a property located at 56 Blackstone Street as it did not receive the Chapter 61 value credits in error. Unanimous vote.*

*Motion made by Ken and seconded by Sue to approve an abatement for a Personal Property account located at 25 Lovell Street as the items being taxed are considered farming equipment. Unanimous vote.*

*The Board will visit a property located at 35 Taft Avenue regarding the filing of a FY2021 real estate tax abatement application.*

*The Board discusses options to assist some of our taxpayers with their increasing real estate tax bills. Kevin, along with the Taxation Aid Committee, is researching a “means” tested tax exemption. This would be based on the Senior Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit guidelines. Jean is researching the adoption of MGL Chapter 59, Section 5C1/2, which would allow those taxpayers who are receiving exemptions currently to receive additional funds. Kevin and Jean will continue researching these options and report at the next meeting.*

*Kevin advises that he has composed a letter to the Select Board regarding comments made at the February 3, 2021 Finance Committee meeting by Town Administrator Kimberly Newman. The Board of Assessors are taking exception to the remarks concerning her suggestion on “outsourcing the entire Assessor’s Office.” Ms. Newman nor the Select Board have spoken to the elected Board of Assessors and ultimately have no jurisdiction in this office. The letter was approved by all members and will be forwarded to the Select Board members and the Finance Committee Chairman.*

*Motion made by Sue and seconded by Ken to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Unanimous vote.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan Edmonds, Assessor Clerk*

*MINUTES APPROVED: 3/4/2021*