

**Town of Ashby**  
**Office of the Board of Assessors**  
**Minutes for the Meeting on February 9, 2011**

**Place of Meeting:** Town Hall

**Time of Meeting:** 6:00 P.M.

<b>Members Present:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Oliver Mutch	<b>Chairman</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Cudmore	<b>Member</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Vogt	<b>Member</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harald Scheid	<b>Regional Assessor</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lois Raymond	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>

1. Read and approved minutes of the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting  
*Minutes were read and approved*
2. Review current budget balances
  - a. To –Date  
*All budget lines seem appropriate for the anticipated expenses*
3. Board review and Approval of Warrants, MVE Abatements and Payables Documents to approve and sign:
  - a. MVE Abatement(s) – **January 01** - *Approved and Signed*
  - b. Motor Vehicle Warrant(s) – **2011-01** - *Approved and Signed*  
& **2010-07** - *Approved and Signed*
  - c. Payables – **None**
4. Final Real Estate / Personal Property Abatements Documents to approve and sign:
  - a. Personal Property Abatement(s) – **None**
  - b. Real Estate Abatement(s) – **None**
  - c. Real Estate Exemption(s) – **TWP Exemptions (2)** - *Approved and Signed*
  - d. Real Estate Warrant(s) – **None**
5. New Chapter Applications  
Lien to be signed and Notarized  
*Liens signed and notarized*
6. Regional Assessor Update
  - a. Review draft of warrant article to set a minimum taxable valuation for personal property from Harald – Discuss and vote upon  
**To see if the Town will accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 exempting from taxation personal property accounts having a valuation of less than \$1,000.**  
*Passage of this article would exempt from taxation certain very small businesses in which the annual personal property tax does not justify the expense of preparing and mailing bills*  
*Due to processing effort and the amount of the tax bill for PP less than \$1,000 it makes sense to exempt PP less than \$1,000. We would still send Forms of Lists but if value is below \$1,000 we would exempt them from the billing process.*  
*The warrant article was accepted and signed by Board Members*  
*Article submitted to Jen Collins for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting*

- b. Abatement Intro  
*Discussion:*  
*18 abatement applications were submitted by 8 taxpayers.*  
*3 taxpayers submitted multiple applications for their holdings.*  
*9 applications were for vacant lots.*  
*We will review and do a work session at our next meeting in March.*
- c. Certification starting  
*TriAnnual Audit Certification is beginning with a meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> with Joe Barbeiri from the DOR. This is a year long process; the goal is for Joe to put together his audit certification report for preliminary certification. After that there is a period of Public Disclosure, then final approval. We are not anticipating any major issues.*  
*The DOR is looking for inequities or special treatment. RRG documents the revaluation process and documents all the decisions. The DOR likes the board involved in the final assessment review. The Board could review the street by street information on-line with an RRG application. It would flag properties out of the normal guidelines.*

7. General Discussion

- a. Ashby Assessment Brochure from RRG  
*Board liked the brochure especially the "approximate cost of services" panel.*
- b. 2Year position for Assessor open  
Doug took papers for the 3Year position
- c. Class 101 available in Natick in the Spring  
*Lois will monitor for her and Doug to attend, if possible*
- d. Clerk Vacation - February 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Barb will cover
- e. We will begin meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month at 6 PM in March
- f. Misc Communications
- g. Other
- h. **Next Meeting – Wednesday – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

8. Adjournment

*Adjourned at 6:35*

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Lois Raymond**

Administrative Assistant  
For the Board of Assessors

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2011

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