

June 4, 2025 Board of Assessors VIRTUAL Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Chairman Howard Shpetner and Members: J. April Stein and George Arvanitis.

Also present: Assessors' Clerk Leslie Bracebridge. **Guests:** None

1. Chairman Howard Shpetner opened the meeting at 6:36 PM

2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 14, 2025 meeting minutes: Following consideration of edits, the minutes were approved as amended: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

3. Old Business:

- a. Reminder of June 12 Franklin County Assessors' Association meeting in Erving. RSVP's preferred.
- b. Towns and zip codes for south ends of West Pelham and Pelham Hill, Schoolhouse and parts of Baker Roads have been entered into Vision in keeping with U.S.P.S. changes.

4. Administrative Assessor Search: Assessors reviewed steps taken to search for an Administrative Assessor and proposed next steps. Discussion included open meeting law standards, creativity such as reconfigurations of staffing hours and assignments, and understanding what segments of the assessing tasks, outside providers might offer. No decisions were made except to post a search committee organizational meeting. Assessors instructed Leslie to communicate with Town Administrator Hayley Bolton for her availability, post a meeting, preferably at 4 PM on June 9, and prepare a list of interview questions.

5. A motion was made and seconded to approve for signature stamps the following Accountant report:

• Motor Vehicle Abatements:

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Total Amount Abated</u>
2025	May (2025)	\$109.81

No changes were offered. Approved as provided: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

6. A motion was made and seconded to approve for signature stamps the following motor vehicle commitment:

<u>Commit. Date</u>	<u>Commitment #</u>	<u>Total Commitment Amount</u>
May 21, 2025	3 rd for 2025	\$113,711.13

No changes were offered. Approved as provided: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

7. & 8. A motion was made and seconded to approve for signature stamps the following requests to the Commission of Corporations and Taxation for excises and taxes which remain uncollected (Ch 58 §8):

<u>Commit. Year</u>	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
2021	Motor Vehicle	\$ 49.57
2022	Motor Vehicle	\$317.91
2023	Motor Vehicle	\$569.99
FY 2023	Personal Property	\$ 42.72
FY 2024	Personal Property	\$130.02

No changes were offered. Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

9. A motion was made and seconded to approve for signature stamps the following administrative abatements due to owner being exempt:

<u>Tax and Year</u>	<u>Parcel ID</u>	<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Abated Amount</u>
CPA FY 2025	Q-19	771	\$ 19.97
RE FY 2025	Q-19	771	\$1,683.13

No changes were offered. Approved as provided: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

10. Review Town Meeting Votes: Both of the Ch. 178 Acts of 2024 HERO Act local option Veteran's benefits were unanimously approved at the May 31, 2025 Annual Town meeting: MGL Ch 59 §5 Cl22I will increase Veterans' benefits each year by the cost of living, and MGL Ch 59 §5 Cl 22J, set by Select Board vote at 100%. These increases will be applied starting in FY 26, and funded out of the overlay account.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting: David and Leslie have planned to do New Growth inspections on June 17 and 18. Perhaps the new magnetic signs for the vehicle doors will be available by then. Leslie hopes to have an identifying Assessors' vest available by then also.

Schedule Next Meeting: Assessors scheduled an **Administrative Assessor Search Committee meeting for Monday June 9, 2025, at 4 PM**, or for when the Town Administrator and the Administrative Assessor are both available. The next **Assessors Meeting was scheduled for June 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM**, if there are end-of-year actions still needed by the Finance Department. If there is no pressing business, an alternate meeting date will be scheduled at the convenience of the Assessors over the summer.

Amotion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:11 PM: Arvanitis - aye, Stein – aye, Shpetner – aye.

Respectfully submitted, as approved on June 25, 2025,

Leslie Bracebridge
Assessors' Clerk

List of Documents used at the meeting:

1. June 4, 2025 meeting agenda.
2. May 14, 2025 draft meeting minutes.
3. Motor Vehicle Accountant report as detailed in minutes.
4. Motor Vehicle Commitment #3 for calendar 2025.
5. Motor Vehicle and Personal Property MGL Chapter 58 §8 requests as detailed in the minutes
6. Community Preservation Act and Real Estate Administrative abatements as detailed in the minutes.