

**Board of Assessors Minutes**  
**April 14, 2008**

**Members Present:** Arlene Fogg; David Stevens; Relf Fogg and Cynthia Bickford, Assessing Technician.

**Also Present:** Kenneth Fogg, Allan Mayranen, Connie Twombly and Dave Mankus.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Appointment for Chairperson**

*Relf Fogg moved to appoint Arlene Fogg as Chairperson for the Board of Assessors, David Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

*Relf Fogg moved to appoint David Stevens to serve as Vice Chairperson, Arlene Fogg seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

**Land Use Change Tax**

The Board reviewed the land use change tax warrant for the Virginia Lane Property Owners Association. Originally 1 acre was taken out of current use for the private cemetery, but the plan submitted by Land Technical indicates the cemetery is 2 acres, therefore; an additional land use change tax will be due for the second acre.

Relf Fogg moved to approve the land use change tax warrant in the amount of \$250.00, Mr. Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Mayranen questions if this private cemetery is abiding by the state regulations and questions if the cemetery is fenced in. Ms. Bickford is unsure and suggests that the cemetery trustees contact the Virginia Lane Property Owners Association.

**Board of Assessors**

Arlene Fogg stated she was very disappointed that the first correspondence sent to her was a letter requesting her resignation. Mrs. Fogg states that the letter sounds like it was directed by the Board of Assessors, but she questions why the Board members did not sign the letter and then points out that the letter was to be returned to David Stevens, Chairperson at the Town Hall address. Mr. Stevens corrected her in stating he was not the chairperson. Mrs. Fogg also states both letters were addressed to her 903 Wichtrot Road address, and both the post office (prior chairman of the Board of Selectmen) and the finance office had her Florida address on file.

Mrs. Fogg informed the board members it was her intentions of returning from

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Florida for the election, but due to medical reasons she had to extend her stay in Florida. Mrs. Fogg asked Mr. Stevens what his intentions were last year when the Board of Selectmen placed a warrant article on the ballot to discontinue the Board of Assessors. Mr. Stevens made it very clear that he was elected by the voters in town and would not resign unless the voters requested his resignation. Mrs. Fogg asked the board members if they were aware of anyone interested in being a member on the Board of Assessors. Relf Fogg stated Rod Cools ran as a write in, during the 2008 elections and Ms. Bickford stated she believed Donna Faucette ran as a write in for the Board of Assessors position, but clarified that these people ran for the vacant seat on the ballot in March of 2008.

Mrs. Fogg asks if anyone is aware of similar letters going to other elected officials. She states that Kenneth Fogg was out of town the same timeframe and did not receive any such letter requesting a resignation. Mr. Mayranen questions if the same letter was sent to Nancy Spencer Smith, she was on numerous boards, moved out of town and was not in attendance to meetings for several months.

Mr. Mankus states that last summer a planning board member was going to be out of town for a period of time and an alternate was voted to fill in for the elected member. Connie Twombly states Ms. Spencer-Smith was a budget committee member and she did not attend meetings, Ms. Twombly spoke to the Chairperson, Howie Knight on several occasions and to her knowledge no letter was sent and no one was appointed to replace her.

Mrs. Fogg asked both board members why they would have asked for her resignation, and not speak with her regarding her intentions first and states she was available via her cell phone, which has been the same number for the past 5 years. It was stated that neither board members asked for her resignation, the Town Administrator joined the Board of Assessors meeting on March 20, 2008 and asked for the board to concur with sending a letter to be prepared by Attorney Sager.

Arlene Fogg suggests the Board of Assessors have a second attorney on hand available to the Board. Relf Fogg agrees and does not feel the town attorney properly represented the Board of Assessors and their request. Relf Fogg wanted to seek Arlene Fogg's intentions and not her resignation as a member. Mr. Stevens does not think it is necessary to have a second attorney on hand; there should be one town attorney. Both Arlene and Relf Fogg believe this situation needs to be addressed.

Mr. Stevens's states he did feel the letter was too harsh and had asked that the letter be changed, after reviewing the letter this morning, Mr. Stevens does not feel the letter reflected changes requested.

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Arlene Fogg feels this letter was a threat, referring to the third paragraph in the letter. Mrs. Twombly states the letter requesting Mrs. Fogg's resignation was perfectly legal but morally wrong.

Mr. Mankus questions why the letter was not signed by the Board of Assessor's and feels this issue was driven by other persons and not by the Board of Assessors.

Relf Fogg agrees and notes that at the Board of Selectmen's meeting of March 26, the board and town administrator had referred to speaking about this situation at an earlier time.

Mrs. Twombly also referred back to the Board of Selectmen's meeting of March 26, and had inquired about the non-public session of which she was informed the minutes of the non-public session were sealed and therefore not available for review from the public.

Discussion took place on who was responsible for appointing a new member and David Stevens believed it to be the Board of Assessors.

***Relf Fogg moved to seek additional information into whether the Board of Assessors can appoint an alternate member, Mr. Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3-0.***

Mr. Fogg moves to direct the attorney to rescind the letter and clarify the Board of Assessors intent, with no fees involved. There being no second, Relf Fogg moves to table the motion at this time. Mr. Stevens believes the Board of Assessors should talk with the Town Administrator about this issue.

Mrs. Twombly questions the costs incurred from attorney fees to the taxpayers. Ms. Bickford states the Board of Assessor's do not have their own legal line, she believes there is a legal line for the town and to date has seen no bill for such services.

In closing Mrs. Fogg questions why a letter was only sent to her and no other appointed or elected officials in the past.

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**Adjournment**

*Relf Fogg moved to adjourn at 10:18 a.m., Mr. Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3-0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Bickford  
Assessing Technician

Approval of Minutes

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Arlene Fogg

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David Stevens

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Relf Fogg