



Town of Oak Bluffs Assessing Department  
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# BOARD OF ASSESSORS MEETING MINUTES

## January 9, 2019 5:30 PM

In the Assessors' Office  
Oak Bluffs Office Town Hall

**Board Members Present:**

Jesse B. Law III, Chairman  
Marie B. Allen  
Melanie M. Bilodeau

**Board Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:**

David Bailey, Principal Assessor  
MacGregor Anderson, Assistant Assessor

**Minutes Approval –December 5, 2018 open session**

The Board voted 2-0 to approve the minutes with Mr. Law abstaining having not attended the previous meeting

**Assessors General Update**

Mr. Anderson said they were beginning to receive calls related to FY19 actual tax bills as well as calls asking for information on the new short term rental tax law. He said inquiries related to large increases in commercial assessments, which had been driven by a number of sales, had been minimal, while calls related to substantial increases in the land valuation of residential property in the NY Ave/County Rd area had been more prevalent. Mr. Bailey described the inquiry volume as moderate.

Mr. Anderson explained that while the short term rental tax was not administered by the town, but rather the DOR, lots of property owners and managers were calling asking for information, which the office had been providing. Mr. Bailey said the new revenue could well reach the million dollar mark, and noted that there were already calls from external sources for funding from it. Mr. Bailey explained that the funds were much needed by the town to offset the financial demands of the schools which were consuming all new growth.

Mr. Anderson said he had attended the Selectmen's budget meeting the previous night, and that the current Assessor's budget made no provisions for administrative staff when Mr. Bailey left in October. He said the treasurer/collector had also been denied their request for an assistant,

despite having cut one manager (treasurer) from their team, and that the accountant had been denied an assistant, despite having taken her role on from the assistant position. Mr. Anderson said he'd told the Selectmen that they would be losing 24 hours a week of extremely skilled labor, but he saw the other departments were in the same position, so he'd do the best he could with the resources provided.

Ms. Bilodeau expressed her concern at the impending reduction in services, noting that the assessors are able to respond quickly to concerned tax payers, providing information that builds trust in government. Mr. Bailey agreed, and noted that if calls go unreturned, or an assessor isn't able to view a property in reasonable time, confidence will be impacted. The Board shared these concerns.

Mr. Anderson told the Board that the Town Administrator had recommended returning their \$1000/member per year stipend, and there had been no objection at the Selectmen's meeting. He said it would be taken up by FinCom the following night.

#### **Boat Excise Commitment and Warrant FY19-1**

The Board reviewed and signed the documents

#### **Motor Vehicle and Boat Abatement Applications December 2018**

The Board reviewed and signed the documents

#### **Roll Call Vote - Executive Session**

The Board will convene in executive session under Purpose 7 of the Open Meeting Law, "to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general law," in order to meet the confidentiality requirements of M.G.L. c. 59, § 60 to discuss property tax exemptions and deferrals and minutes related to those from December 5, 2018 Executive Session

The Board voted 3-0 to open in executive session: Law Aye, Allen Aye, Bilodeau Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM without returning to open meeting