

Skowhegan Board of Assessors  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
August 15, 2016

Present: Ronald F. Blaisdell, Chairman  
David G. Summers, Vice Chairman  
John F. Grohs

Assessor's Agent: William "Bill" Van Tuinen  
Asst. Assessor: Leisa D. Emery

Others Present: Joel Moser, Bern Stein Shur  
Ted Susi, Redington Memorial Home  
Bill Laney, Redington Memorial Home  
Eunice Thorpe, Redington Memorial Home  
Mickey Powers, Redington Memorial Home  
Chris Perkins, Redington Memorial Home  
Doug Harlow, Morning Sentinel  
Christine Almand, Town Manager  
Gail Pelotte, Treasurer  
Joanne Woodard

**I. Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:55 PM by Chairman Ronald Blaisdell.

**II. Minutes to be approved and signed:**

1. July 20, 2016, Regular Meeting:

David Summers made a motion to approve and sign the minutes, seconded by John Grohs. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

**III. Items by the Public:**

Bill Van Tuinen stated that Redington Memorial Home can be taken up at this time.

Bill said Joel Moser over the past couple of weeks has sent us a great deal of information that filled in most of the blanks and answered the questions that we asked. It is Bill's opinion that we could tax them for this year, but they do qualify for the exemption and would be exempt next year. Bill stated that he recommends they continue to be exempt and be granted the exemption for this year. Bill said they did apply for the exemption last year and failed to get the supplemental information in to us in a timely manner. Bill said they could still tighten up their dissolution process better, by putting it in their charter, because by laws can be changed quite easily.

David Summers said that charitable is giving back to the community and David doesn't see that present there. David stated he believes it is mostly upper class men and women, and if it was truly charitable there would be some older shoe shop workers and house maids living there. David said in his mind it isn't charitable if it is limited to only upper class.

Joel Moser from Bern Stein Shur spoke on behalf of Redington Memorial Home. Joel introduced members of the board of directors of Redington Memorial Home and their administrator. Joel said on behalf of Redington he would like to thank the board of assessors for listening to them today, they realize they are very late in getting the supplemental information to the Board that was requested. They would like to sincerely apologize for not getting the information in to the office sooner.

Joel reviewed all the documents that were submitted to the Board for review.

Bill Laney and Eunice Thorpe spoke on behalf of Redington, and gave the Board of Assessors a brief overview of how the home operates and how they care for their residents.

The Board members asked a few questions to clarify the documentation that was reviewed.

Ronald Blaisdell made a motion to go with Bill Van Tuinen's recommendation that Redington Memorial Home continue to get their tax exemption on all their properties, seconded by John Grohs. – Vote 2 yes - 1 no (David Summers)

Joel Moser thanked the board for their time.

Joel Moser and everyone from Redington Memorial Home left at this time.

#### **IV. Unfinished Business:**

Bill Van Tuinen stated at our last meeting we discussed the personal property account of Whitney Cunliffe, who owns excavation equipment. Whitney believes his excavation equipment should not be taxed. Bill said he disagrees with that at this point and time. Bill said Whitney would like the opportunity to present his opinion on his personal property and taxable status directly to the Board. Bill suggests that we invite Whitney to a future meeting to discuss his personal property and that we do not establish an account for him until he has the opportunity to meet with the Board. If the Board decides he should be taxed we can send him a supplemental tax bill at that time.

The Board agreed to have Whitney come to the next meeting, and postpone establishing his account until after that meeting.

**V. New Business:**

1. Set the Mill Rate:

Bill Van Tuinen reviewed the total taxable valuation with the Board. Bill said the increase in the homestead exemption from \$10,000 to \$15,000 takes value away from the tax base. Bill also stated we did have the reduction in S.D. Warrens value as agreed upon.

Bill went over the possible mill rates, and what each would generate in overlay.

David Summers made a motion to select \$19.04 as the mill rate for the 2016-2017 tax year, seconded by Ronald Blaisdell. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

**VI. Chairman's Items:** None

**VII. Member's Items:** None

**VIII. Assessor's Agents Items:** None

**IX. Asst. Assessor's Items:** None

**X. Adjournment:**

Ronald Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Grohs. – Vote 3 yes – 0 no

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

The Skowhegan Board of Assessors

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Ronald Blaisdell, Chairman

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David Summers, Vice Chairman

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John F. Grohs

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