

**Town of Damariscotta
Board of Assessor's Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, July 20, 2016**

The Board of Assessors met on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, members present were Robin Mayer, Ronn Orenstein, George Parker, Jim Cosgrove, and Mark Hagar. Staff present was Town Manager-Matt Lutkus, Deputy Clerk- Cheryl Pinkham, Assessing Agent-Jurate Barnes. Others present were Mai from LCN, Gina Hamilton from Wiscasset News, residents Karen O'Bryan, Representative from Inn Along The Way.

I. Call to Order-

II. Inn Along the Way: Property Exemption Denial-request for reconsideration-

Barnes clarified for the record this is for Map 003 Lot 046, Lot 47 is part of the original decision but we are not reconsidering that one tonight.

Cosgrove asked how long Lot 47 could stay in Farmland Exemption

Barnes stated if they renew it and meet qualification then they can stay as Farmland for another year. Barnes recommends not reconsidering the application and continue to deny request to reconsider.

Cosgrove clarified the request hasn't actually been established and is only in the 'intend to' stage.

Mayer stated the intent is for home care, but that's not taken place yet.

Barnes agreed.

On motion of Cosgrove/Orenstein moved to not reconsider the tax exemption request and the initial denial stands.
Vote 5, 0, 0

Representative noted they will be building respite cottages, have a 200 year old house that we have to bring up to code and currently working with a local architect to do so.

How often are we reviewed for this, 3 months, 6 months?

Barnes stated on annual basis.

III. Tax Commitment for Fiscal 2017

Lutkus expressed the tax rate is not as low as he hoped, we lost 2 million dollars in taxable valuation due to new exempt organizations.

Barnes stated an additional component is the homestead exemption went from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Cosgrove asked if there was a moratorium the Town could initiate in order to halt the inflow of exempt properties? How much can this town afford to not tax?

Lutkus replied that we as a town have the ability to challenge

Mayer pointed out that if non-profit is making money, then it's not tax exempt. DRA sells hay, does that become non-taxable.

Barnes handed the Assessors different options of a proposed mil rate with usage of \$37,000 minimum for overlay.

On motion of Parker/Orenstein moved to set the mil rate from 17.06 to 17.22 with using \$37,566.10 from overlay.
Vote 5, 0, 0

IV. County Tax Commitment Fiscal 2017

On motion of Parker/Orenstein moved to accept County tax as submitted. Vote 5, 0, 0
Cosgrove noted there wasn't much that can be done on this.

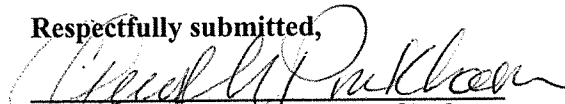
V. Approve minutes-

On motion of Parker/Orenstein moved to approve BOA minutes of 5/4/16. Vote 5, 0, 0

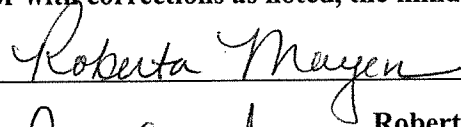
VI. Adjournment-

On motion of Cosgrove/Parker moved to adjourn BOA meeting at 7:28p.m. Vote 5, 0, 0

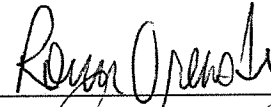
Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl M. Pinkham, Deputy Clerk

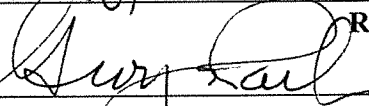
We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Board of Assessors meeting.



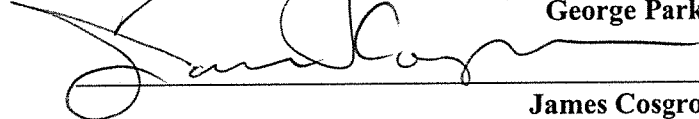
Roberta Mayer



Ronn Orenstein



George Parker



James Cosgrove

Mark Hagar

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Assessors, Signed this date 10-20-2016