BOA Meeting of November 2, 2017

Present: John Katz
               Christopher Lamarre, Principal Assessor

1. Meeting called to order by Christopher Lamarre at 10:40.

2. Prior Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2017:
   Motion: John Katz, to accept
   Second: Christopher Lamarre
   Vote: 2/0

3. Old Business:
   Assessor Lamarre brought the Board up to date on the two pending ATB cases.
   The first, a residential property located at 25 Lake Avenue where a settlement has been
   reached. The second, a commercial property located at 148 Maple Avenue, had been scheduled
   for October 24th however, the taxpayer’s attorney has requested an extension to December 12
   which was agreed to by Assessor Lamarre.

4. New Business:
   a. There were 23 residential, 5 commercial and 16 personal property abatement
      applications received as of the close of business on November 1, 2017. This number
      represents a reduction in applications of 19% over last year filings. Once the BOA has
      reviewed and voted all applications we will then be able to determine the total value
      and tax abated for comparison to last year.
   b. Assessor Lamarre attended the Berkshire County Assessors Association annual fall
      meeting. Guest speaker was George Sansoucy, P.E. from New Hampshire. Mr. Sansoucy
      is an authority on valuing utility assets. He has encouraged Berkshire County/WMass
      communities to form a consortium similar to one in NH for the purpose of ensuring each
      community’s utility companies are not understating their values when reporting on their
      Form of Lists. Mr. Sansoucy was the expert witness in two landmark cases where the
      respective SJC’s of NH & MA confirmed his utility valuation methodology thereby ruling
      in favor of the municipality. A minimum of 32 communities would need to agree to join
      in order for the plan to move forward. The BCAA Executive Board is in the due diligence
      and planning stages to determine interest and cost/benefit.

5. Citizen Speak Time: None

With no further business, a motion by John Katz was made to close the regular meeting at 10:55am
and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing real, personal and CPA abatement
applications and negotiations pertaining to pending FY 2017 ATB cases. All were in favor.