The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Brad Hibbard at 9:10 a.m.

Present from the Board of Assessors: Beverly Kenniston
Kevin Dorman
Michael Frew
Rene White
Betty Dimao

Present from Tax Collectors Office: Terry Barrett (9:25 a.m.)

The purpose of this meeting was to gather information from the Board of Assessors on current tax assessments, properties in Tax Title and properties with back taxes owed that are not currently in tax title.

Bev Kenniston provided an overview of the property taxation process from the perspective of the Board of Assessors. Her board is responsible for assessing property values and providing those figures to the Tax Collector for collection. She explained that Rene White spends considerable time in the field viewing and photographing properties in an effort to keep property records consistent and up to date. Mrs. Kenniston provided us with a historical accounting of new growth over the past five years:

2012 $58,329
2013 18,938
2014 142,839
2015 52,071
2016 153,709

The five-year average annual new growth is $86,977.

The Tax Collector was asked to join our meeting to provide us with an overview of the current status of properties with unpaid back taxes and those in tax title. Ms. Barrett gave a list of properties currently in tax title. The list includes 91 properties, 84 of which are located within the Brookhaven development area. These properties account for approximately $98,546. in back taxes, exclusive of interest and fees. The remaining 7 properties account for approximately $55,778. in back taxes for a total of $154,334. in back taxes owed on properties currently in tax title. These figures do not include properties with unpaid taxes that haven’t been designated for
tax title at this time. Ms. Barrett was asked to provide our committee with a list of those properties.

Attendees discussed the many issues surrounding the Brookhaven development area, including unpaid taxes, zoning and roadways. We believe this is an issue that needs further review and action as these problems will continue to compound going forward with the potential to negatively impact our finances.

There was consensus among the boards that a policy on tax title property takings be established to more effectively deal with the issue of collecting overdue taxes. Our committee will await further information from the Tax Collector to further research its fiscal impact on the town’s budget.

Prior to adjourning the committee thanked the Board of Assessors and Tax Collector for their efforts and information provided.

Phil Landine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Long second. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Hibbard
Vice Chair