

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## BRISTOL SS

At a meeting of the Bristol County Commissioners holden at Taunton within and for the County of Bristol on the thirteenth day of August A.D., 2019 by successive adjournments from the March term of the same year.

Present: Chairman Paul B. Kitchen and Commissioner John T. Saunders

Also in attendance, County Administrator. Maria Gomes.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Chairman Kitchen.

Commissioner Kitchen stated that given the time, the tax abatement hearing would be taken out of order and heard at this time. The resident from Dighton, as the petitioner would have the opportunity to present their case, the Dighton Assessor's would then explain its position and then the petitioner would have a chance to rebut or ask question of Dighton. The Commissioners would take all information under consideration and possibly ask for points of clarification. Hearing commenced at 4:15 pm.

Robbin Cornell of 1193 Brooks Street in Dighton introduced herself and her husband Mark as the petitioners for the abatement. Mrs. Cornell explained that they were present to dispute the town's denial for abatement of taxes for their property on Briggs Street. She explained that the comps that were provided to them by the town were considerably lower than what their home was being assessed at. The average of the 28 comps provided by the town averaged \$355,000. The highest assessed home on that comp sheet was \$485,300 yet their home is assessed at \$584,300. Mrs. Cornell explained that the town granted an abatement in 2018 to them in the amount of \$800.00. Mrs. Cornell said that the value of their home went up substantially higher than the pre-abatement value of their home last year. She stated that she could not get a clear answer on that from the town. Mr. Cornell explained that their taxes went up about 24% from 2018 to 2019.

Carol Beauregard, Tax Assessor for the Town of Dighton. Assessed values are determined by the square footage of the property not by the number of bedrooms. Depreciation comes into effect of the value also. Ms. Beauregard explained the packet that was provided to the Commissioners and how values and comparisons are determined.

Mrs. Cornell asked the town if the basement added value to the home. Ms. Beauregard stated that it did.

Commissioner Kitchen asked about the detached structure and it was clarified that it was a pool and was not used to determine comps because only the homes were being used.

Commissioner Kitchen asked how the 2018 abatement that was allowed came into play for the 2019 tax year. Ms. Beauregard stated that once the abatement was approved that that's their starting point. Mrs. Cornell asked about the assessed value increase from 2018 to 2019 of \$150,000. Ms. Beauregard asked about the pool and Mrs. Cornell stated that the pool has been there since the house was built in 2016.

Mr. Kitchen asked about the three properties on Jennifer Lane that were listed on the comp sheet. Ms. Beauregard responded by saying that they were colonials and the wrong sheet had been sent to the Cornell's.

Commissioner Saunders asked Ms. Beauregard how many people in the Town of Dighton applied for an abatement last year. Ms. Beauregard did not have those numbers in front of her but she guessed that maybe 32 and less than one half were granted.

Mr. Kitchen asked for comps for homes on Jennifer Lane to be sent to Ms. Gomes. Commissioner Kitchen stated that the Commissioners would wait for Dighton to clarify some of the comps and then render a decision at their next meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The hearing was concluded at 4:40 pm

Commissioner Kitchen returned to the regular order of the agenda.

Received and approved notices from the Bristol County Agricultural High School regarding the following employment matters:

- |    |                     |                               |                   |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Christine Courville | School Nurse                  | Effective 8/26/19 |
| 2. | Marisa Eddlem       | Vocational Guidance Counselor | Effective 8/26/19 |
| 3. | Caitlin Bosworth    | Large Animal Science Teacher  | Effective 8/26/19 |
| 4. | Sarah Couto         | Long Term Sub Teacher         | Effective 8/26/19 |
| 5. | Colleen E. Cronin   | Admissions Coordinator        | Effective 7/1/19  |
| 6. | Stephanie Moriarty  | Animal Science Teacher        | Effective 8/26/19 |

Received and approved notices from the County Commissioners Office regarding the following employment matters:

- |    |                   |                           |                   |
|----|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Fernando Mendonca | Custodian                 | Effective 8/19/19 |
| 2. | Maria V. Gomes    | County Administrator      | Effective 7/1/19  |
| 3. | Scott M. Aguiar   | Facilities Superintendent | Effective 7/1/19  |
| 4. | Michael Vining    | Computer Specialist       | Effective 7/1/19  |

Received and approved notices from the County Treasurer’s Office regarding the following employment matters:

- |    |                         |                        |                  |
|----|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Christopher T. Saunders | County Treasurer       | Effective 7/1/19 |
| 2. | Lisa Rogers             | Director of Accounting | Effective 7/1/19 |

Received and approved notices from the Register Barry Amaral regarding the following employment matters:

- |    |             |          |                   |
|----|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| 1. | Jean Nadeau | Off FMLA | Effective 8/14/19 |
|----|-------------|----------|-------------------|

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to approve the CP’s as presented. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to approve the minutes of August 8, 2019. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to approve the following Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants:

Payroll Warrant	#20011	\$159,437.55
Payroll Warrant	#20014	\$178,840.32
AP Warrant	#20005	\$ 97,784.45
AP Warrant	#20013	\$ 45,719.60

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Kitchen, it was voted to approve the payment, in accordance with the recommendation of Peter Carreiro, Benefits Coordinator, and to forward to the Treasurer's Office for payment, invoice dated July 31, 2019 from the **MIA Health Benefits Trust, One Winthrop Square, Boston, MA 02110**, in the amount of **\$383,037.11** for the County of Bristol Monthly Membership Premiums for **August, 2019**.

To be paid to Vendor #7778 from the following accounts:	<b>Account #01-21581</b>	<b>\$382,806.71</b>
	<b>Account #13420-54437</b>	<b>\$ 230.40</b>

Item #35 on the Agenda will be addressed at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to adjourn at 4:50 pm