

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors was faced with a major challenge this year, as did all town departments. The challenge was to run an office with limited resources while trying to maintain adequate service for the residents of the town. This proved difficult as the state mandated requirements increased at the same time funding for clerical support decreased. In order to fulfill all mandatory requirements in the time frame as prescribed by the Massachusetts General Laws, we had no other option but to be open to the public only two days each week for a total of seven hours per week.

Limiting the hours opened to the public affected the taxpayers both directly and indirectly. Most taxpayers prefer to deal with real estate, excise and exemption issues in person. The minimal office hours directly affected the ability for the taxpayers to do this. Many taxpayers do not realize how the limited hours indirectly affect them. Each time a resident buys, sells or refinances their property this office is visited by realtors, appraisers, attorneys and surveyors. These individuals had a more difficult time gathering the necessary information for the closings to take place in light of the limited office hours.

This year again, the Assessors would like to recognize the dedication of our Assistant to the Board, Ann Murphy. On July 1st, in light of the tight fiscal budget, the Board was unable to give Ann her anticipated step-increase and also suffered a second blow due to decreased hours. Ann knew the town officials did their best to provide for all employees and stood by this Board and our town to continue to provide the best service she could under tough fiscal times.

The Board would also like to thank all town officials and townhouse staff members who assist this office all year through.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Hildreth, Chairperson
Stanley W. Witkop, Assessor
MaryLou Majkut, Assessor
Ann Murphy, Assistant to the Board