

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Having said farewell to fellow board member and friend, Beverly J. Bowman late last December when she and husband Grant moved from town to settle into a *real* and well deserved retirement, we are now anticipating this year's elections as we will welcome a new member to our ranks just in time to begin the field work involved with the 2014 building permits and yet another round of "cyclical" inspections. We anticipate mailing reminders to those property owners advising them when we will be in their neighborhoods.

Final certification of the FY15 state mandated revaluation was received, as expected, in early December and the tax rate was approved, as submitted, shortly thereafter. These actions were preceded by a public disclosure period from early to mid-October during which all those taxpayers who live outside Worthington received mailers giving their new proposed assessments and an additional timetable when the board members would be available to discuss the new figures either by appointment or over the phone. Counter listings also were available both at the post office and in town hall to provide residents ample opportunities to check their values and those of their neighbors and attend any of our meetings to discuss any questions that might have arisen. It should be noted that this public disclosure was a "preview" of the proposed values and had no effect on the abatement application process. As the third quarter bills were mailed prior to December 31, 2014, the filing deadline for an abatement application was Monday, February 2, 2015.

Although sales within town are by no means booming, it should be noted that values are no longer flat across the board and have begun to rise. This was reflected in the new assessments for FY15. When looking through the *Counter Listing* that follows this report a couple of things should be noted. The listing contains the names of those persons who owned property in Worthington as of 1 January 2014, as that was the assessment date for FY15. Any transactions that took place during 2014 are not reflected in this list including not only changes in ownership but also lot splits, where only a portion of the land was transferred to another party. Also, the *Counter Listing* provided here matches the online property record cards and maps that are available at our website assessors@worthington-ma.us .

It should be noted that all abatement and exemption applications along with descriptive brochures and other helpful information are available online 24/7 at our website as well. It is worth the visit from the comfort of your home or office.

Because your assessments are only a piece of the puzzle when it comes to calculating what we all pay in taxes, we would strongly suggest that you consider actively participating in this year's Annual Town Meeting, where we will be considering our "new" school budget and perhaps the Wired West initiative to bring high speed internet on fiber optic cable to our town in addition to other important issues.

The Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Recapitulation breakdown follows:

Local Expenditures:

Appropriations	\$	3,291,672.26
Overlay Deficits		19.88
Cherry Sheet Offsets		2,070.00
Other - Board of Health Agent Compensation Deficit		107.50
State & County Cherry Sheet Charges		2,137.00
Assessors' Overlay		<u>20,020.89</u>

Gross Amount to be Raised \$ 3,316,027.53

Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$	244,654.00
Local Estimated Receipts		163,100.00
Free Cash		229,675.00
Other Available Funds		<u>347,327.12</u>

Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds \$ 984,756.12

Gross Amount to be Raised \$ 3,316,027.53

Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds - 984,756.12

Net Amount to be Raised \$ 2,331,271.41

Real Property Values \$ 161,778,113.00

Personal Property Values 5,458,000.00

Total \$ 167,236,113.00

Fiscal Year 2015 tax rate is \$13.94 per thousand, a decrease of \$0.06 from last year.

As always you are most welcome to stop in during our Tuesday evening meetings beginning at our earlier time of 6:30 PM with any questions or concerns or you can contact us by phone at 238-5577 extension 104. Voice mail is available.

Respectfully submitted: John Fosnot, Chairman and Jean Boudreau