

## **2013 Report of the BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

The Board of Assessors is required by Massachusetts Law to annually assess taxes to cover the cost of running the Town, along with State appropriations assessed to the town, and once every three years, undergo a state recertification audit. The recertification audit occurred during this past year and was successfully completed. Assessed values in Massachusetts, as per the Department of Revenue, are based on "full and fair cash value," or 100 percent of fair market value. The Assessors' primary responsibility is to determine the "full and fair cash value" of the taxpayer's property. Each year, the Office reviews sales and the market, so that the property taxpayer pays only his or her fair share of the cost of local government, in proportion to the value of the property.

While the tax rate is set by the Assessors, it is actually determined by all the Boards and Departments within the town, when they arrive at the total budget needed to provide for services such as schools, fire, law enforcement, roads, trash collection, etc. The tax rate is simply the rate which provides funds to pay for these services. The Assessors Office must appraise and assess approximately 1,334 parcels for real estate and 40 personal property accounts. The current Tax Rate for Millville is \$17.18 per thousand for real and personal property.

In addition to its appraisal duties, the Assessors Office responsibilities include the processing of real and personal property tax abatements, personal exemptions, the administration of motor vehicle excise taxes, the maintenance and annual updating of the Town maps, the processing of abutters' lists and other requested reports, as well as, various real estate and motor vehicle excise related inquiries.

This year we have several accomplishments to report. The Assessors Maps have had all building data updated, which has not been done for a number of years and all of the Assessors Maps are now available on our webpage of the town's website. Also, magnetic "Assessors" car door signs have been obtained for use by the field appraiser and Board members when performing property valuations or other duties, so that our vehicles can be easily identified.

As to the board itself, the Board of Assessors meets once a month, which has been on the last Tuesday of each month. During the course of the year, Board member Gail Marquedant resigned and the Board of Selectmen appointed Judith Monroe to fill the vacated seat. As always, the Board of Assessors and Assessors Office look forward to serving the Town of Millville in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Furno, Chair  
Judith Monroe  
Natalia Alward