

BOARD OF ASSESSORS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REAL ESTATE

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A REAL ESTATE ABATEMENT?

Your application is due on or before the due date of the 3rd quarter bill (approximately one month), generally the month of January. It must be returned (or postmarked) no later than the due date of the THIRD quarter tax bill.

ARE THERE ANY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY?

Yes, there are many programs for the elderly as well as veterans. Please contact the office for details.

HOW DO I OBTAIN AN ABUTTERS LIST?

There is a request form on the website, or at the Assessors' Office. Please fill it out and mail with payment to the Assessor's Office. The fee is typically 15 dollars per request. We will deliver it to Community Development, Zoning Board, or Planning Board. If it is for the Conservation Commission, we will notify you when it is ready to be picked up. If you wish to have it mailed, you must send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with enough postage for three sets of labels.

HOW DO I CHANGE THE MAILING ADDRESS ON MY TAX BILL?

There is a change of address form on the website, or at the Assessor's Office. Please fill it out and return to the Assessors' Office.

WHAT IS THE CPA SURCHARGE ON MY TAX BILL?

It is Community Preservation Act. It is used to preserve Open Space, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation. It was approved at Town Meeting at a rate of 3% of a portion of your tax bill. Residential property has a 100,000 dollar exemption.

[ex: house value – 100,000 x tax rate x 3%]

$250,000 - 100,000 = 150,000 \times 0.01748 = 2,622 \times .03 = \78.66

\$78.66 – is the CPA surcharge.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

I FILLED OUT A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM AT TOWN HALL, BUT MY MAILING ADDRESS IS STILL WRONG ON MY EXCISE TAX BILL – WHY?

We cannot change the Registry's records -- you can call the registry to get that changed. Their number is 800-858-3926. Or you can do it online at www.MASS.GOV/RMV

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE ABATEMENT?

In order to apply for an excise abatement, two things must happen – you must lose possession of the vehicle (sell, trade, donate, total), and you must either transfer to another vehicle or return the plate to the RMV. Abatement applications can be obtained on the website or by calling the office. They must be accompanied by proof of disposition of the plate, bill of sale, trade in papers, donation papers or letter from Insurance Co. stating that it has been totaled and a copy of the excise bill.

I SOLD MY CAR BEFORE I GOT THIS BILL. WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

You will need to file for an abatement. We will need proof of disposition of the plate (was it cancelled or transferred?), bill of sale and an abatement application. It is important to note that filing for an abatement does not stay the collection of your taxes.

I RECEIVED A MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENT CERTIFICATE SHOWING MY REFUND BUT THERE WAS NO CHECK, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

The check comes separately from the Treasurer /Collectors Office. If you do not receive it within a months' time, please contact the Treasurers' Office at 508-533-3205