

Board of Assessment Review Ordinance

Section 1. Establishment

Pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. paragraph 2526(6), a Board of Assessment Review is hereby established for the Town of Searsport, Maine.

Section 2. Composition, Qualifications, Terms, Vacancies

The Board shall consist of three (3) members and two (2) alternates who shall be appointed by the Municipal Officers and who shall be registered voters of the Town of Searsport. No Municipal Officer or Assessor may be a member. Members shall serve for terms of three years or until their successors are appointed, except that for transition purposes, initial terms shall be staggered so that as nearly an equal number of terms shall expire annually. Vacancies shall expire annually. Vacancies shall be filled within thirty (30) days by appointment by the Municipal Officers for the unexpired term.

Section 3. Officers, Meetings, Quorum, Procedures

The Board shall annual elect from its membership a Chairman and a Secretary. The Chairman shall call meetings as necessary, shall preside at all meetings, and shall designate alternates to serve in place of members who are absent or disqualified. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all proceedings including all correspondence of the Board. All meetings and records shall be subject to Maine Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S.A. paragraph 401-410, except as otherwise authorized by law. A quorum necessary to conduct business shall consist of at least two (2) members. The Board's procedure shall be governed by 30-A M.R.S.A. paragraph 2691(3).

Section 4. Powers and Duties

The Board shall hear and decide all appeals properly taken from the refusal of the Searsport Assessor to make such property tax abatements as are applied for. The Board may take such evidence and testimony as it deems necessary and may grant such abatements as it thinks proper. If the Board fails to give written notice of its decision within 60 days of the date the appeal is filed, unless the appellant agrees in writing to further delay, the appeal shall be deemed denied. The Board's decision may be appealed in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. paragraph 843.

Section 5. Repeal of Previous Authority

The enactment of the Searsport Board of Assessment Review Ordinance repeals any authority of assessment appeal previously granted.

Section 6. Ordinance Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective as of March 9, 2002.

Section 7. Severability

If any provision or clause of this ordinance is determined to be illegal, that determination shall not affect the legality of any remaining provisions or clauses.

This is a true and attested copy by: Deborah Plourde, Town Clerk
Deborah Plourde, Town Clerk