

Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services

Navjeet Bal, Commissioner

Robert G. Nunes, Deputy Commissioner & Director of Municipal Affairs

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ashburnham Board of Assessors
Board of Assessors
32 Main St.
Ashburnham, MA 01430

Re: NOTIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION - Ashburnham

Dear Board Members:

The Commissioner of Revenue has determined that the locally assessed values of real and personal property in your municipality represent full and fair cash valuation as of January 1, 2008 for fiscal year 2009 and that these proposed property assessments satisfy the minimum requirements for certification.

The Commissioner further certifies that:

1. all real property has been classified according to its use as of January 1, 2008 as required by Chapter 59, § 2A(b).
2. a majority of the assessors have been qualified to classify property by their attendance at a classification workshop conducted by the Department of Revenue.
3. The community must now hold a public hearing on the issue of selecting a residential factor, which will determine the percentages of the tax burden to be borne by each class of property for fiscal year 2009. Prior to the hearing, we urge you to promote public understanding and discussion of the options available to the town in regard to allocating the tax burden among major property classes. The Selectmen or the City Council with the approval of the Mayor may elect a factor greater than the minimum residential factor, or a factor of "1" which will result in a uniform allocation of the tax burden among all classes of property. In addition, they have the option of granting an open space discount, residential exemption and small commercial exemption.

It appears that you are progressing satisfactorily in complying with your responsibilities under the classification law. It is important that you complete the final steps expeditiously so that tax billing will not be delayed.

If you have further questions or require assistance in completing the final steps for a classified tax system please contact the Bureau at (617) 626-2300.

Sincerely yours,
Marilyn H. Browne, Chief
Bureau of Local Assessment