

# Town of Falmouth, Maine



Anne J. Gregory, CMA  
Assessor

March 17, 2014

## **RE: 2014 PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT – Deadline April 17, 2014**

### **Dear Personal Property Owner:**

Enclosed please find the 2014 Personal Property Declaration form and laws governing the taxation of Personal Property (see reverse side for Title 36 MRSA §601 & §706). For an accurate and timely assessment, please complete and return the enclosed §706 declaration form by **April 17, 2014**. *If you own personal property located in Falmouth on April 1, 2014, you are responsible for the annual personal property tax bill.*

**WHAT IS PERSONAL PROPERTY?** Machinery, equipment, furniture, fixtures, telephones, computers, signs, copiers, shelving, etc; items, not part of the real estate, that can be removed without causing damage to the building. If you were to relocate, what items would you move?

**HOW IS PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSED?** The taxable value for municipal assessment is generally replacement cost less depreciation. Items are not depreciated to zero; if it is in use, it has value.

**WHAT DOES THE ASSESSOR NEED?** Quantity, description, date and purchase price of the item.

**WHAT ABOUT LEASED EQUIPMENT?** For leased equipment, please declare the company name, item, account number, monthly rental fee and term of the lease. **Who is responsible for the tax bill?** Leasing companies typically declare a list to the Assessor and are assessed separately. However, if the lease is not clear, the responsibility of who pays the tax is between the lessor and lessee, not the Assessor's office.

**Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE):** In 2008, the State legislature passed the BETE law. The law exempts certain equipment from personal property tax. To apply for this exemption, you must return a completed BETE application each year; return the form along with the attached town's Personal Property §706 declaration form. The deadline to file is **April 1, 2014**. For more BETE information including the State's guidelines and to obtain an application form, please visit our website at [www.town.falmouth.me.us](http://www.town.falmouth.me.us) > Town Departments > Assessing > Personal Property/Business Equipment > BETE Application and Guidelines.

If you have questions regarding the §706 declaration form or BETE application, please contact this office at 207-781-5253 x5323 Monday 7:00am to 5:00pm, Tuesday through Thursday 8:00am to 5:00pm, email [pgiven@town.falmouth.me.us](mailto:pgiven@town.falmouth.me.us) or fax to 207-781-8677.

Sincerely,

Pamela Given  
Assistant to the Assessor

Enclosure

**BY LAW, TAXPAYERS WHO DO NOT RESPOND LOSE THEIR RIGHT TO APPEAL.**

**TITLE 36 M.R.S.A.**

**§601. Personal property; defined**

Personal property for the purposes of taxation includes all tangible goods and chattels wheresoever they are and all vessels, at home or abroad.

**§706. Taxpayers to list property, notice, penalty, verification**

Before making an assessment, the assessor or assessors, the chief assessor of a primary assessing area or the State Tax Assessor in the case of the unorganized territory may give seasonable notice in writing to all persons liable to taxation in the municipality, primary assessing area or the unorganized territory to furnish to the assessor or assessors, chief assessor or State Tax Assessor true and perfect lists of all their estates, not by law exempt from taxation, of which they were possessed on the first day of April of the same year. [1977, c. 509, § 13 (rpr).]

The notice to owners may be by mail directed to the last known address of the taxpayer or by any other method that provides reasonable notice to the taxpayer. [1977, c. 509, § 13 (rpr).]

If notice is given by mail and the taxpayer does not furnish the list, he is barred of his right to make application to the assessor or assessors, chief assessor or State Tax Assessor or any appeal there from for any abatement of his taxes, unless he furnishes the list with his application and satisfies them that he was unable to furnish it at the time appointed. [1981, c. 30, § 1 (rpr).]

The assessor or assessors, chief assessor or State Tax Assessor may require the person furnishing the list to make oath to its truth, which oath any of them may administer, and may require him to answer in writing all proper inquiries as to the nature, situation and value of his property liable to be taxed in the State; and a refusal or neglect to answer such inquiries and subscribe the same bars an appeal, but such list and answers shall not be conclusive upon the assessor or assessors, chief assessor or the State Tax Assessor. [1977, c. 50., § 13 (rpr).]

If the assessor or assessors, chief assessor or the State Tax Assessor fail to give notice by mail, the taxpayer is not barred of his right to make application for abatement provided that upon demand the taxpayer shall answer in writing all proper inquiries as to the nature, situation and value of his property liable to be taxed in the State; and a refusal or neglect to answer the inquiries and subscribe the same bars an appeal, but the list and answers shall not be conclusive upon the assessor or assessors, chief assessor or the State Tax Assessor. [1981, c. 30, § 2 (rpr).]