

**THE RHODE ISLAND VEHICLE VALUE COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2015**

The Rhode Island Vehicle Value Commission was established in 1984 by virtue of Chapter 44-34 of the General Laws of Rhode Island. The purpose of the Commission is to establish presumptive values of vehicles and trailers subject to the excise tax in the State of Rhode Island, and to provide a list of values to each city and town for their use in levying taxes.

The Commission consists of seven members appointed in the following manner:

- The Director of the Department of Revenue or his/hers designee from the department.
- Five local tax officials named by the Governor, from a list submitted by the President of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns.
- One motor vehicle dealer appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Director of Revenue.

In order to accomplish its mandate, the Commission each year adopts a methodology for determining the presumptive value of motor vehicles, taking into consideration such factors as the clean retail price of similar vehicles of the same make, model, type and year of manufacture as reported by official used car guides, such as that of the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) for New England.

The Commission then adopts a list of values for motor vehicles of the same make, model, type and year of manufacture as of December 31, in accordance with the methodology it has adopted.

Both the adoption of the methodology and the list of values are subject to public hearings, conducted by the Commission for the purpose of obtaining comments from the general public.

In addition, the Commission is responsible for hearing appeals from taxpayers who wish to appeal the value of their motor vehicle.

Each taxpayer may appeal the valuation of a motor vehicle to the local assessor when that assessor has determined the value, or to the Rhode Island Vehicle Value Commission when the value has been set by the Commission. To this end, the Commission meets periodically to hear appeals and must render a decision to the local tax assessor within twenty days of receiving any appeal.

During fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015), the Commission held eight meetings and two public hearings. All minutes of these meetings and public hearings are available upon request. The Commission has also electronically filed these documents with the Office of The Secretary of State.

During fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015), the Commission heard two hundred fifty nine (259) appeals from taxpayers.

During fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015), the Commission promulgated Rule 2014 – Methodology For Determining The Presumptive Value of Motor Vehicles Subject to The Excise Tax of December 31, 2014. A copy of this document is available upon request.

The Annual Budget of the Commission for Fiscal Year 2015 was \$29,526.00. The expenses of the Commission are shared by the State of Rhode Island and each municipality. The State contributes fifty

percent of the budget, while the municipal share is reimbursed by each municipality based upon its population.

The budget for fiscal year 2015 was as follows:

Postage	\$ 210.00
NADA Services and Books	22,288.00
Commission Books (Printing)	7,028.00
Total	\$ 29,421.00

The Rhode Island Vehicle Value Commission does not have any staff. Since the Commission's inception, staff from the Department of Administration (Revenue) – Division of Municipal Finance (formally the Department of Community Affairs) has provided administrative support to the Commission. There has never been any expense associated with staff. The Commission has and still engages consultant services used to transform the electronic data provided by NADA and the State of Rhode Island into the Commission's vehicle value price list, which is distributed to each city and town.

During Fiscal Year 2015 the following served as members of the Rhode Island Vehicle Value Commission:

Jill Barrette	Department of Revenue	
Linda L. Cwiek	Assessor, Town of North Kingstown	Chairperson
Elizabeth Fournier	Assessor, Town of Richmond	
David Quinn	Assessor, City of Providence	
David Robert	Assessor, Town of Tiverton	
(Vacant)	Assessor	
(Vacant)	Motor Vehicle Dealer	

Approved August 28, 2015  
Rhode Island Vehicle Value Commission

Linda L. Cwiek  
Chairperson