

MINUTES - TOWN OF ALLEGANY BOARD MEETING ON REVALUATION & ASSESSMENTS - COMMUNITY CENTER - TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005 7:00 PM 1

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Eaton
Councilman Potter
Councilman Wolf
Attorney W. Tuttle
Councilman Higgins
Councilman McMullen
Comptroller C. Hemphill
Town Clerk M. Peck

ALSO PRESENT: Dennis Fisher of NYS ORPS, Brian Pavlock of NYS ORPS, Cindy Baire of GAR Assoc., M. Painter, townspeople and news media.

Salute to the Flag at 7:00 pm opened the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Board of Assessment Review Members.

1. Bernard Schneider - (Kevin Carl's vacancy) term 5/17/05 - 09/30/09
2. Denise Skroback - (Sam Fahy's vacancy) term 5/17/05 - 9/30/07
3. Michael Amore - 5/17/05 - 9/30/06
4. Dennis Peterson - 5/17/05 - 9/30/05

#1 - MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER

Motion by Potter to appoint Bernard Schneider to the Board of Assessment Review to fulfill the vacancy left by Kevin Carls, the term to be 5/17/05 - 9/30/09. 2nd by Higgins. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, McMullen-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

#2 - MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER

Motion by Potter to appoint Denise Skroback to the Board of Assessment Review to fulfill the vacancy left by Sam Fahy, the term to be 5/17/05 - 9/30/07. 2nd by Higgins. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, McMullen-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

#3 - MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER

Motion by Wolf to appoint Michael Amore to the Board of Assessment Review, the term to be 5/17/05 - 9/30/06. 2nd by Potter. Higgins-aye, McMullen-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye, CARRIED.

#4 - MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW MEMBER

Motion by Potter to appoint Dennis Peterson to the Board of Assessment Review. The term to be 5/17/05 - 9/30/05. 2nd by Higgins. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, McMullen-aye Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

2. **Mr. Dennis Fisher, Customer Relationship Manager - NYS Office of Real Property Services** - gave a presentation regarding the New York State Real Property Tax Equity. New York State is different than any other state in the United States. The standard for assessment in NYS is uniformity. Section 305 of the Real Property Tax Law explains and discusses this. It is a cyclical nature for the assessment roll. The basic idea is to have a uniform assessment roll so that everyone has their fair share of value. People should pay their fair share of taxes. Taxes are a function of many

different things, i.e. budgets, aid from other sources, and many other factors. Taxes do not necessarily go up because of a rise in assessment. People should take advantage of speaking with the assessor, filing a grievance, or go to the small claims review process if they are not happy with their assessment. Urged people to continue on with the annual reassessment as it will benefit the community.

Supervisor Eaton - swearing in of the new Board of Assessment Review Members: Bernard Schneider, Denise Skroback, Michael Amore and Dennis Peterson. The new Board Members then signed the Oath of Office forms.

Councilman McMullen - question for Mr. Fisher: if a taxpayer goes to assessor and then to the Board of Assessment Review. Can the BAR raise the assessment back up?

Mr. Fisher - states no, the BAR cannot raise it back up or go beyond what the taxpayer is asking.

Attorney Tuttle - also advised that if taxpayer and assessor sign the stipulation on the back of the grievance form, that will show the BAR what the parties already agreed upon.

Jack McMullen - question about sales trends - before revaluation and after.

Cindy Baire - advised that new sales were not calculated on old assessment

Mel Duggan - felt that most people do not disagree with the 100% assessment, but it did not end up equitable. Cannot get any help from the assessor's office and GAR. Also questioned that if GAR and the Assessor are doing such a good job, how come there are so many people at these meetings? Mr. Duggan wants someone to answer some of the questions they have.

Cindy Baire - were not hired to go into each and every house. Town could not afford that service. But, later Ms. Baire said they did go "to" each and every house?

Phil Yehl - questioned GAR on how they did the comparison on his house. Nothing made sense. A house that was not comparable, nothing the same was used, and his house has less (i.e. bathrooms, square footage, driveway, etc.) and his house is assessed higher!

Dennis Fisher - stressed the fact that people need to go through the process of grievance. They need to file and go to the Board of Assessment Review.

There were numerous other questions to and answers from Mr. Fisher.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel committee on letter from NYMIR **this item will be TABLED**

OTHER BUSINESS

- Public Hearing set for June 9, 2005 at 7pm at the Senior Center for the zoning change request submitted by Don Benson.
- To put issues of revaluation continuation, keeping at 100%, remaining in the annual program on the next agenda (5/26/05)

#5 - MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Potter to adjourn meeting. 2nd by Eaton. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, McMullen-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Peck,
Town Clerk