



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Board of Assessment Appeals Special Meeting Minutes of Meeting on February 28, 2018

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

A Board of Assessment Appeals was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 6:30 in Meeting Room #3, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, Connecticut

Members Present: James McFarland, Tom Dwyer and Alternate Charles Framularo

Staff Present: Penny Mudgett (Tax Assessor) and Lynn Kovack (Clerk)

James McFarland called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Unfinished Business- None

New Business

James welcomed new Member of the Board Tom Dwyer. He also introduced Charles Framularo who was asked to sit in as a Temp and help out with the meetings. He stated that First Selectman also had reached out to others also. James stated he had received an email regarding John Goden being asked but hadn't received any confirmation as of the start of Tonight's meeting.

James wanted to review the Standard Operating Procedures. He not sure what is and isn't covered by the State Statute and wants to confirm. Penny has also been looking into the Town Charter for some confirmation on things. James stated he had done one other Re-Evaluation year and the process was different at that time. Each Member of the Board would hear appeals separately and then the Board would come together during deliberations to go over with the other Members of the Board. The panel would listen to the recommendation of the other Commissioners and come to a decision. To improve the process and move it along in a more timely fashion we have now changed the procedure as follows:

The panel would sit together and hear each applicant together so each Commissioner asked their questions. Each applicant has 15 minutes to present their case to the panel. After all applicants were heard the Commissioners would then Deliberate and make their decisions and it cut a lot of time off of the hearings.

James then went over the Oath that we read to each applicant and the forms we use to write the denial and or approval. Also showed the members the application form that gets filled out for the appeal process to begin.

Tom stated that he himself received his new Valuation in November and went to the revaluation Board and met with them and had his appeal approved and a reduction in his taxes. Tom then asked why applicants would come into the Board without going to see the re-evaluators prior to the appeal. He didn't think he would want to hear an appeal unless they went to the re-evaluator first. James stated as a Board we have to give them their time. James also stated that we need to come up with a guide that will help citizens before coming to the appeal. It should explain how assessments and tax bills are related and gives citizens the information prior to filing an appeal.

Charles stated that some people just miss the deadline and can't get into the office to see the re-evaluator while they were here. He stated that is a big disadvantage for the applicant also. It is the applicant's responsibility to bring their evidence and present their case. Charles is here to help us out since there is such a big load with this Year. He stated that Dan Rosenthal had also called a couple other people include Jeff Capeci to see if he knew who could help out. Charles is very willing to help out where he can. Tom asked if we should submit a letter to the Town attorney to ask if a person received their new assessment and threw it away and didn't do their due diligence, would we still have to see them. Charles pointed out that as long as they meet the deadline to submit an appeal you have to hear them.

There is approximately 150-200 applications Penny stated.

James will look into confirming some things and he will also look into establishing a Chairman also. Moving on with other Appeals we need to get some things confirmed and a guide to help homeowners/businesses through the appeal process moving forward.

James would like me to get a copy of the letter from Dan regarding the approval for extension on hearings. I will email to him and other members along with forms we will be using so they can get familiar with them. James may also stop by the Assessor Office prior to our first meeting on March 6, 2018 to look over some of the applications coming in.

With no other business to transact the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kovack (Board of Assessment Appeals)

