

# **Hart Co. Board of Equalization Annual Meeting**

**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Ruth Roosenberg, Kathryn Heriford, Kendall Jordan, Barbara Harper, Diane Merritt, Frankie Gray, and Ali Pless

**Not in Attendance:** Bill Fogerty

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**THIS MEETING WAS HELD AT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUILDING LOCATED AT 800 CHANDLER STREET, HARTWELL, GA 30643.**

- The meeting started at 3:07 p.m.
- Mr. Gray welcomed all the members and made an announcement that Mr. Fogerty was not able to attend the meeting.
- Ruth made an announcement that she went through all appeals from last year with a breakdown of how many appeals each member heard that year, how many decisions, and how many no shows.
- Mr. Gray passed out timesheets to all members to fill out.
  - He told them that the pay has not been changed.
  - He advised them that any pay increase would have to be approved by the Board of Commissioners
- Mr. Gray let the members know that he would be contacting the Tax Assessor's office and trying to get the appeals the following week.
  - We will have around 300 appeals
  - He let them know that the appeal hearings have been moved from Gibson Street to the Board of Commissioner's Building located at 800 Chandler Street, Hartwell, GA 30643.
    - The members will have the option to use the back-meeting room or the Commissioner's courtroom.
- Mr. Gray made the announcement that he checked with the Department of Revenue and he was told that everybody had completed their yearly training.
- Mr. Gray made a few announcements about current member status.
  - Nicole Wheless has accepted a position with a preschool and has sent in her letter of resignation.
  - Barbara Harper has accepted a job with the school and will have limited work availability for appeal hearings.
  - Diane Merritt was reappointed for another term by the Grand Jury. She was sworn in and oath given to remain as a board member for another term.
  - Bill Fogerty was not reappointed for another term by the Grand Jury. His term will end on December 31, 2022.
  - He asked all members if they were still property owners in Hart County, all members in attendance stated yes.
- Mr. Gray went over any changes to statute.
  - \$500,000 value amount to appeal to hearing offer.
  - He did not notice anymore changes since the previous year.
  - Board of Equalization manual has not been updated in a few years.

- He stated that he will place a new printed copy of the statutes and place it in their meeting room to look at during appeal hearings if needed.
- He also let them know that the fee to appeal to Superior Court has remained at \$25.00.
- He also let the members know that he has a pending email into some of his contacts at the Department of Revenue regarding the valuation on the taxpayers who are no shows at their appeal hearing.
- Mr. Gray made a statement about the change in decision letters for appeal hearings.
  - He has added 4 new sections on the decision letters to be completed at the end of the hearing.
  - He also reminded the members that if the taxpayer refuses to sign the decision letter that his office will certify mail the letter to them.
- Mrs. Heriford brought up COVID protocols and what was expected of them in hearings.
  - Mr. Gray responded that there will still be 15-minute breaks in between hearings for disinfecting and cleaning.
    - No temp checks will have to be given to taxpayers
    - Masks are optional
    - A COVID memo will be placed on the appeal letters.
- Mr. Gray let all members know that each year they all elect a new chairperson and vice chairperson.
  - He made an announcement that Mr. Fogerty (not in attendance) was sent an email and text by proxy for his recommendations on Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Gray checked his email and phone for a response. No response was given as of 4:04 p.m.
  - Recommendations for Chairperson
    - Kathy recommends Ruth to remain as Chairperson
    - Kendall 2<sup>nd</sup> that recommendation
    - No one objected
    - Ruth Roosenberg will remain as BOE Chairperson
  - Recommendations for Vice Chairperson
    - Ruth recommends Kathy to remain as Vice Chairperson
    - Kendall & Diane 2<sup>nd</sup> that recommendation
    - No one objected
    - Kathy Heriford will remain as BOE Vice Chairperson
- For the minutes, there were no observer during this meeting.
  - This meeting was publicized on both bulletin boards at the Hart Co. Courthouse and on the Hart Co. website at least three days before the called meeting.
- Mr. Gray thanked all the members for their service to the citizens of Hart County. He let them know how fortunate we were in this county to get members for our Board.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.