

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

HELD IN THE JURY ROOM ON 165 W. FRANKLIN ST. HARTWELL, GA

JULY 2, 2020 @ 10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT (ALL): RUTH ROOSENBERG, GLENDA OSBORNE, KATHY HERIFORD, RONNY WEAVER, AND BILL FOGERTY.

ALSO PRESENT: FRANKIE GRAY, GINGER BENTON, AND ALI PLESS

- Frankie welcomed everyone and thanked them for being there
- Frankie introduced Ginger Benton as the BOE contact person in the office as Ali will be going out on leave the following week
- Frankie confirmed with Glenda & Diane that they will be taking BOE class the week of July 6- July 10
- Frankie announced that the BOE office will be changing locations to 127 W. Gibson St. Hartwell, GA and instructed all members who had keys to old office to turn them in to him
- Frankie announced that he was open to all suggestions for new office
- Frankie opened up vote for chair and vice chairperson. Kathy made a motion to keep the same as last year. 2nd by Bill and all were in favor so Ruth Roosenberg will serve as chairperson and Glenda Osborne as vice chairperson.
- Frankie distributed the judge's letter to all members and explained it
- Frankie distributed copies of statues for BOE members to everyone
- Frankie opened up questions
- Frankie spoke re: possibly getting first batch of assessment notices around the last week of Aug.
- Frankie brought up member term expiration dates. Ronny, Bill, and Ruth said their term expires at end of this year. Frankie told them that he needs a new letter for application before the 3rd week of Aug. to present to Grand Jury
- Frankie discussed the 20 hour online course

- Ruth explained the typical schedule for the benefit of new members which is: 8:30-5:00 with a lunch break. She also typically contacts the BOE members to make the schedule and explained that any last minute changes to availability must be handled amongst members
- Ruth explained that cases cannot be heard by BOE members for any relatives or close friends. Conflict forms are available for this.
- Frankie estimated that there were 175-180 appeals which was roughly 4-6 weeks for the year for BOE members to hear cases
- Frankie went over the pay which is \$50 per day/\$25 for half day
- Frankie reiterated that there must be 3 members for each hearing
- Frankie reiterated that a final decision letter must be signed by property owner. In the case of a refusal to sign, it can be documented on the form.
- Frankie explained that he needs to be made aware of any “no shows” because a certified letter has to be sent out in 5 days
- Frankie explained that a statute was in place that must be complied with for BOE to conduct Zoom meetings upon request
- Ronny requests a bigger screen for TV. Frankie said that he would let the request be known.
- Ali discussed appeals- she informed that it has to go to Assessor’s office first, then to Superior Court
- Ruth explained that decisions do not have to be unanimous
- Frankie explained that the taxpayer may send a representative in their place but they must give prior notice and only the taxpayer or representative may speak on the case.
- Ruth explained that once a decision has been made, it is closed.
- Ruth explained that if someone is being belligerent, the case can be closed.
- Ronny suggested addressing COVID-19 precautions in any information sent out and Frankie assured him that this was already in place.
- Frankie discussed disinfectant measures and that gloves and masks will be made available for those who want them.

- Ruth suggested more time be made available between hearings for disinfecting.
- Ruth confirmed that they will continue to hear by parcel number
- Frankie explained that a hearing officer is needed when property is over \$500,000.00 per statute and there are only 6 that can hear Hart Co.
- Frankie adjourned the meeting and opened up for questions. No additional questions were asked.
- Ronny and Glenda turned in the old office door key
- All members were asked to go to the office to fill out a time sheet
- Meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M. Meeting lasted 1 hr. 20 min.