

Board of Equalization Meeting  
5:00 pm – June 30, 2011

Attendees: Frankie Gray, Ruth Roosenberg, Judson Bailey, Nan Harbison, Glenda Osborne, Doug Cleveland, Linda Saxon and Ann Roedler.

- Frankie welcomed Doug Cleveland as the newest member of the Hart County Board of Equalization. Doug has been sworn in and completed his training on June 24. Doug has already begun hearing tax appeals.
- Frankie distributed Exhibit 4 – Appeals Process (O.C.G.A. 48-5-311). This included a flow chart that traced the tax appeal from the Board of Assessors Office to the Superior Court. It also had a grid that explained the step-by-step process.
- Frankie stated he has a list of five Hearing Officers that will work as Arbitrators. The tax payer has the option of having their tax appeal come before the Board of Equalization or Hearing Officer or Arbitration.
- Frankie explained that beginning with the August tax appeals, we will begin a new process: we will send out an appointment letter to each appellant requesting they contact the BOE office to schedule a day & time for their tax appeal hearing. If we do not hear back from the appellant by a designated date, we will assign a hearing date and time with a 15 minute time slot for the hearing (versus 45 minutes). We will notify the appellant via standard mail.
- Frankie stated we may possibly need to re-address the 478 appeals that were 'withdrawn due to no response'. Walter Gordon, County Attorney, is checking on this and will let Frankie know if we need to take additional steps.
- Frankie passed out new BOE membership list. He reported that Tom Peebles and Fran Uteg submitted their resignation letters effective June 27. Marc Cawthorn has also submitted his resignation effective June 30.
- Frankie stated he has had three or four people come by his office to pick up an application and have expressed an interest in joining the Board of Equalization. The Grand Jury will be meeting next on August 22 and will be interviewing applicants for the Board of Equalization.
- The board elected Judson Bailey as the Chairperson and Ruth Roosenberg as the Vice-Chairperson effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The board discussed if it was acceptable for the appellant to send in a letter versus coming in person (or send authorized representative) to appeal their property tax before the BOE. The decision was made to only hear appeals via letter if there are extenuating circumstances (health or mileage issues). This will be done on a case-by case basis and the three board members hearing the tax appeal will determine if they will accept the letter to appeal the tax.
- There was a discussion regarding an article in the Hartwell Sun today that reported that the Board of Assessors has set September 15 as the deadline for their office to have all the 2009 tax appeals completed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Ann Roedler  
Secretary - Board of Equalization