

Hart Co. Board of Equalization Meeting

August 12th, 2021 @ 10:00 A.M.

Attendees: Ruth Roosenberg, Kathy Heriford, Bill Fogerty, Kendall Jordan, Nicole Wheless, Barbara Harper, Frankie Gray, Ali Pless, Ginger Benton

Not in Attendance: Diane Merritt

THIS MEETING WAS HELD AT THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARING ROOM LOCATED AT 127 WEST GIBSON STREET, HARTWELL, GA 30643.

- The meeting started at 10:11 am.
- Frankie made an announcement that he had spoken with the Tax Assessor's Office and the Board would probably be getting about 112 appeals.
- The three new members (Kendall, Nicole, & Barbara) were introduced to the current members (Ruth, Kathy, & Bill).
- Frankie thanked all members for their service to Hart County.
- He also stated that it a lot of counties are having a hard time getting Board of Equalization members.
 - We were lucky is having 7 members this year.
 - There are talks of establishing regional boards to serve multiple counties that do not have enough members.
- Frankie then began to discuss Covid cleaning protocols
 - On Saturdays, Frankie comes to the BOE building and deep cleans the hearing room.
 - Masks will be required
 - Frankie will speak to Chief Judge Jeffery S. Malcom to see if he is going to make it mandatory.
 - This year, no temperature checks will be taken at the door.
 - Ali will include on appeal hearing letter that masks need to be worn.
 - There are two boxes for pens (clean and used). Pens will be cleaned.
- Frankie lets all members know that each year they all elect a new chairperson and vice chairperson.
 - Recommendations for Chairperson
 - Frankie made an announcement the Diane (not in attendance) told Ali via phone call that he recommended Ruth to remain as Chairperson.
 - Bill 2nd that recommendation
 - Kathy 3rd that recommendation
 - No one objected
 - Ruth Roosenberg will remain as BOE Chairperson

- Recommendations for Vice Chairperson
 - Ruth recommends Kathy to remain as Vice Chairperson
 - Bill 2nd that recommendation
 - No one objected
 - Kathy Heriford will remain as BOE Vice Chairperson
- Frankie discusses who has completed and still needs their annual training.
 - Nicole and Kendall have completed their 40-hr. training.
 - Barbara is scheduled to do her training August 23rd – 27th, 2021.
 - She was advised by Frankie that she could do that training at the courthouse.
 - Kathy, Diane, Ruth, and Bill have not been able to be registered yet for their respective 8-hr trainings because the Dept. of Revenue had not updated their 2021 class schedule yet.
 - UGA has class options available and have updated their website so Frankie can get them all registered.
 - They need to complete before the start of 2021 appeal hearings.
- Frankie told the members he had not seen any new statutes for BOE this year except for the removal of the 20-hr training that were held every 3rd year of a member's term.
- Frankie reminded them all that the pay has not changed.
 - \$50.00 for the day and \$25.00 for a half day.
 - Time sheets will be given and they will be paid every two weeks.
- He also passed around his office's policy and procedure manual and was is expected of them as representatives of Hart County.
 - The dress code was discussed and Ruth had told members that the dress code is casual but still professional.
- Ruth began to explain scheduling to all the members.
 - She states she usually tries to schedule 2 regular members with 1 alternate for hearings.
 - A typical hearing day start at 8:30 a.m. and last hearing will end at 5:00 p.m. with a one-hour lunch.
 - There will be 15-minute breaks in between each hearing for cleaning.
- Frankie discussed if an emergency were to come up and a member could not appear. They will need to contact Frankie or Ali.
- Ruth began to explain a typical hearing day from start to finish.
- Frankie thanked all the members once more and the meeting was adjourned.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.