

Board of Equalization Meeting

July 21st, 2017 @ 10:00 AM

Attendees: Ruth Roosenberg, Judson Bailey, Glenda Osborne, Ann Roedler, Kathy Heriford, Bill Fogerty, Frankie Gray, and Ali Robertson.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ON THE ANNEX AND MAIN COURTHOUSE BULLETIN BOARDS; IT WILL BE HOSTED AT THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION BUILDING ON 194 CADE STREET, SUITE C, HARTWELL, GA 30643 AT 10:00 AM.

- The meeting started at 10:00 AM.
- Frankie welcomed everyone to the meeting and started to list some of the topics that will be discussed today.
 - New board members
 - If there are any new laws
 - When the board would start hearing appeals
- Frankie discussed that we have had two members resign from the board; Doug Cleveland and Jerry Brown.
- Frankie addressed that in his search for members, He ran an ad for the newspaper and two applied.
 - He stated that our two new members are Bill Fogerty and Kathy Heriford.
- Frankie pointed out the two new members, Kathy Heriford and Bill Fogerty, and let them know that this building on 194 Cade Street, Suite C, Hartwell, GA 30643 is where we will hold all of our Board of Equalization appeals.
- Frankie then talked about the BOE laws and that nothing has really changed since last year.
 - He gave everyone a copy of the state laws and local ordinances for BOE for this 2017 year.
- Frankie talked about our new 3-part NCR decision letters that we started doing last year.
 - He explained that it worked great with the BOE last year and we will continue to use them this year.
 - He discussed about whether or not the taxpayer signs the NCR form after the hearing, and if they chose to not sign that we would send it certified mail to the taxpayer.
- Frankie then discussed the BOE new certification list for the year.
 - He stated how Ann has moved up into Doug Cleveland's spot and has now taken the expiration date of December 2017.

- He discussed how Kathy has moved into Jerry Brown' spot, and the Bill has moved into Fran Uteg's spot and both will have now taken the expiration date of December 2017.
 - Now that they have an expiration date of 2017 even though that will have just taken their 40 hour training, they will have to take the 20 hr. update training class next year.
- Frankie brought up the new online 20 hr. training course before the BOE.
 - He stated that price for this online option is around \$90 per 4 hours.
 - Frankie let the BOE members know that if that was something that they would be interested in that he would allow them to use the small annex courtroom and its computer to do the online course.
- Frankie then discussed that every year the board has to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. He stated that Ruth Roosenberg was Chairperson last year and Glenda Osborne was the Vice- Chairperson.
 - He then asked for any recommendations.
 - Judson recommended Ruth as Chairperson.
 - Ann seconds that recommendation.
 - Ruth recommends Glenda as Vice- Chairperson
 - Judson seconds that recommendation.
 - Frankie states that Ruth is recommended as Chairperson and Glenda as Vice-Chairperson.
 - All were in favor and none opposed.
- Frankie states that Ruth Roosenberg will be this year's Chairperson and Glenda Osborne will be the Vice- Chairperson.
- Ann wanted to make some recommendations for BOE operations.
 - She addressed the setup of the BOE hearing room and that maybe we should set the table up with the 3 BOE members being across the table facing the taxpayer and Tax Assessor representative.
 - The BOE discussed to keep the setup how it has been.
 - Ann then discussed with the BOE about the pay for BOE members and how Hart County is one of the lowest paid counties for BOE member in the State of Georgia.
 - She then gave BOE member pay amounts for other counties in the State who get paid more per day then our BOE members do.
- Ruth starts then to discuss about how she does the scheduling for the members. She also stated that most of all the scheduling is done through email and that everyone would need to make sure they have access to one.
 - Ali Robertson states that she makes a schedule with all of the appeal names and their time/day. She then says that she sends that schedule to Ruth.

- Ruth sends it to all of the members so that they can determine if they will have any conflicts with any of the taxpayer or if they just have a conflict for any particular day.
 - Ruth states that some counties only use their 3 regular members for most of all the appeals, but that we try and use our alternates pretty well. At least one alternate member normally sits on a hearing per day.
- Ruth makes the comment that instead of just seeing Brad Goss as the Tax Assessor representative that the members may start seeing different individuals from the Tax Assessor representatives along with Brad Goss.
- Frankie brought up a major change that we had last year to refresh everyone's memory about the cost to appeal to Superior Court.
 - The fee has went from \$210.50 to just \$25.00.
 - He also stated that there will be packets that the members can give a taxpayer if they state their wish to appeal to Superior Court explaining the protocol and fee.
- All then discussed when we should be expecting to see appeals, and around when we should start having hearings.
 - She stated that the members should start hearing appeals around mid-September.
- Frankie explained to the members also about the Wi-Fi in the BOE office and if anyone needed the passwords that there would be a list left at the office for their convenience.
- Frankie asked if there was anything else and if anyone had anything else they wanted to add.
 - There was no response.
- Frankie then adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM.
 - A total of 52 minutes for this meeting.