

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
27 Warren Street, 4th Floor
Somerville, NJ

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
July 12, 2022 – Regular Monthly Meeting

The July 12, 2022 regular monthly meeting of the Somerset County Board of Taxation was held at 3:30 p.m. in the County Tax Board office at 27 Warren Street, in Somerville, NJ. The meeting had been advertised in accordance with State Law; upon roll call, President Goldberg, Vice President Jordan, Commissioners Linnus, Rosen and Graner were in attendance in person. Tax Administrator Charles Eader hosted the meeting, with Deputy Tax Administrator Dawn Guttschall also attending. The following matters were discussed:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 14, 2022 monthly meeting of the Board of Taxation were submitted by Administrator Eader to the commissioners for approval. A motion of approval was moved by Commissioner Linnus with a second by Commissioner Rosen. The roll was called and the minutes for that meeting were approved by all Commissioners present.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER

- Ceremonial swearing in of Elizabeth Graner as a commissioner for the Somerset County Board of Taxation was conducted by Somerset County Clerk, Steve Peter.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 6/29/2022 – State of NJ, Office of the Governor confirming Elizabeth Graner's appointment to the Somerset County Board of Taxation.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Current balance in Trust Account (\$487,112.13)
2. James Sawyer of the IT Department is continuing development for archival records storage for the digital repository for the master files of the County Tax Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Application for Reassessment
 - a. Eight applications have been received, submitted to the Division of Taxation and have been approved by the state. (Bernards, Branchburg, Bridgewater, Franklin, Green Brook, Hillsborough, Millstone, and Rocky Hill)
 - b. Bound Brook's application has been received and submitted to the Division of Taxation for approval. Final state approval is pending.
 - c. Remaining 7 annual reassessment municipalities must have applications approved by the state before 8/1/2022. (Bedminster, Bernardsville, Far Hills, Manville, Peapack – Gladstone, Warren, and Watchung). A motion by Commissioner Rosen and a second by Commissioner Graner followed by a roll-call vote in the affirmative to approve and submit the remaining applications for reassessment to the State of NJ.
2. Appeal Review / Approval

- a. 6/14/2022 Bound Brook. 52 total appeals (43 Stipulated, 6 Heard, 1 AWOP, 2 Withdrawn). No vote needed as quorum heard the appeals
- b. 6/17/2022 Bernardsville. 20 total appeals (16 Stipulated, 3 Heard, 1 Withdrawn). No vote needed as quorum heard the appeals
- c. 6/23/2022 Franklin. 64 total appeals (16 Stipulated, 23 Heard, 14 AWOP, 2 Dismissed w/ Prejudice, 9 Withdrawn)..
- d. 6/28/2022 Make up day. 4 appeals Heard (1 Franklin, 2 Montgomery, 1 Hillsborough). A Judgement in Franklin was approved with a motion by President Goldberg and a second by Commissioner Linnus followed by an affirmative roll-call vote. Commissioner Graner abstained. Judgements in Montgomery were approved with a motion by President Goldberg and a second by Commissioner Linnus followed by an affirmative roll-call vote. Commissioner Graner abstained. A judgement in Hillsborough was approved with a motion by President Goldberg and a second by Commissioner Linnus followed by an affirmative roll-call vote. Commissioner Graner abstained.
- e. There is one matter, a classification / development fee appeal, in Far Hills that will be heard by the commissioners prior to the next board meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.
3. Setting of 2022 Tax Rates
- a. Preliminary tax rates have been drafted and sent to municipal clerks, collectors and assessors for 14 towns.
- b. State certification of municipal budgets have been received for Bernards, Bernardsville, North Plainfield, and Somerville
- c. The County Tax Board is still waiting on the following information to be able to calculate preliminary tax rates:
- i. Bound Brook – Municipal budget, Special Districts budget
 - ii. Green Brook – Municipal budget, Open Space budget
 - iii. Hillsborough – Municipal budget, Open Space budget
 - iv. Manville – Municipal budget
 - v. Millstone – Municipal budget
 - vi. Rocky Hill – Municipal budget, Open Space budget
 - vii. South Bound Brook – Municipal budget, State Aid
- d. State certification is still pending on the County budget
4. Status of 2022 SR1A sampling period end. It was noted that the processing of deeds for the sampling period should be completed before 8/1/2022.

EDUCATION:

1. The annual NJACTB Education Conference in Cape May will be August 29 through September 2, 2022. Commissioners can work with Deputy Administrator Guttschall to submit registration forms.

PUBLIC SESSION

None noted

ADJOURMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m. with an "All in Favor" vote on a motion made by Commissioner Rosen and a second by Commissioner Graner.