

April 7, 2021

A regular meeting of the Bergen County Board of Taxation was held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at TWO Bergen County Plaza, Tax Board Hearing Room A, Hackensack, NJ. The meeting was called to order by President Calabrese at 9:42 A.M. and compliance with the Sunshine Law was indicated. The roll call was taken:

Present: President Calabrese, Commissioners Schuster, Eilert, O'Connor, Schettino, Lonzifero and Administrator Layton. The minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Eilert and seconded by Commissioner O'Connor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Revaluations/Reassessments

2021 – Reassessments for Allendale, Carlstadt, Closter, Cresskill, Little Ferry, Maywood, North Arlingto, Oradell, Paramus, Ridgefield Park, Saddle Brook and Westwood are all complete.

2022 Edgewater is a reassessment.

Lyndhurst is a revaluation.

Oakland is a reassessment.

Ridgefield is a reassessment

River Edge is a revaluation.

We have reassessment applications for 2022 for Allendale, Carlstadt, Closter, Cresskill, East Rutherford, Fairview, Hasbrouck Heights, Little Ferry, Maywood, Moonachie, North Arlington, Palisades Park, Paramus, Ridgefield Park, Saddle Brook, South Hackensack, Westwood, Woodcliff Lake, Oradell and Teterboro.

2023 - Bogota – Revaluation

New Milford – Revaluation

Rochelle Park- Revaluation

Wallington – Revaluation

2. SR1A Report – The Board is on time in processing SR1A's. Assessors were asked to please complete them and get them in to the Board.
3. Preliminary Equalization Table is dated April 7, 2021 and was mailed pursuant to revised statutes to all tax assessors, municipal clerks, the Director of the Division of Taxation and Local Property Tax Bureau. The purpose of this hearing is to give each district an opportunity to record his objection if any. No objections were made. A motion was made by Commissioner Eilert and Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor to adopt the Preliminary Equalization Table.
4. Resolution 21-01 - Administrator Layton read the resolution with all 70 districts listed. A motion was made by Commissioner Eilert and seconded by Commissioner O'Connor to approve Resolution 21-01. Requisitions for towns are on record.
5. OPRA Request – Shawn Hopkins - After speaking to the Deputy Attorney General, she said that if we have access to the requested items we should turn them over. We will release whatever we have.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Personnel Matter. A motion was made by Commissioner Schettino, seconded by Commissioner Lonziserio to go into closed session at 9:56 AM.

The Board returned to the open public meeting at 10:06 AM where Commissioner Schuster explained that the closed session regarded Assessment practices in Woodcliff Lake due to a letter that was received from Mr. Dolan.

Commissioner Eilert stated that the letter from Mr. Dolan repeated claims and complaints that he raised previously in 2019 and 2020, all of which have been addressed by both the Division of Taxation and the Tax Board and that both the Division and the Board found his claims and complaints to be unfounded and without merit.

President Calabrese stated that Mr. Dolan raised these claims and concerns in a tax appeal which is pending in the tax court and that ultimately the Tax Court will issue a judgment on the issues he raised, so the Board no longer has jurisdiction on this matter.

As a separate matter, Administrator Layton stated that Assistant Administrator Mazzola inspected the tax assessment records at the Woodcliff Lake Borough Hall and found them to be in locked file cabinets pursuant to the Division's directive.

The meeting was opened to the public at 10:10AM as motioned by Commissioner Schuster and approved.

Huntington Bailey addressed the Board regarding the Shawn Hopkins OPRA request. The Board determined that we would release any records that are in the Board's possession and meet the legal requirement.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021.

There being no further business before the Board, President Calabrese Closed the meeting at 10:15AM as motioned by Commissioner Schuster and seconded by Commissioner Schettino.



Robert F. Layton
Tax Administrator