

Equalization and Assessment Committee Minutes
January 9, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Phil Barrett, John Collyer, Gardner Congdon, Peter Martin, Matt Veitch, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Brian O’Conor, County Auditor; Joanne Bosley, Chris Aldrich, Real Property; Andrew Jarosh, Cindy Baker, County Treasurer.

Supervisor Collyer called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Congdon, the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Wood, to approve the 2016 Fourth Quarter Report by the County Auditor. Unanimous.

Mr. O’Conor distributed the report and gave a brief overview. There was one additional refund in December 2016 for \$518.48 for a STAR exemption removed in error. The total refunds and corrections for 2016 equal \$8,168.56 compared to \$12,482.62 in 2015 and \$8,997.76 in 2014.

Mrs. Bosley asked the committee to set the March auction date for March 21, 2017 with registration beginning at 5:00pm and the auction at 6:00pm. Mr. Collyer said that there are approximately 100 properties on the list.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to authorize the County Auditor to approve tax refunds and corrections not to exceed \$2,500. Unanimous.

Mrs. Bosley said that this is an annual resolution. The Auditor will submit a report quarterly.

A motion was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Congdon, to authorize a tax credit in the amount of \$552.09 against the 2015-2016 outstanding school taxes for a property in the Town of Wilton. Unanimous.

The property owner was entitled to a STAR exemption that was not on the school tax bill. The corrected tax amount due includes all penalties and interest.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Martin, to authorize acceptance of a Tender Offer for a property in the Town of Greenfield in the amount of \$6,101.76 for 2014, 2015 and 2016 taxes and for a property in the Town of Galway in the amount of \$3,582.96 for 2014 taxes and authorizing conveyance of Tax Acquired Lands to the underbidders of two properties from the September 2016 Auction (Town of Day - \$250) (Town of Hadley - \$75). Unanimous.

Mr. Martin asked about the taxes due on the properties conveyed. Mrs. Baker said that the taxes due on the property in the Town of Day was \$993.49 and the Town of Hadley \$900.67. Mr.

Jarosh said that the auction results are calculated on the total amount collected on all properties. Some properties are sold much higher than the taxes due.

Mr. Dorsey said that a meeting has been scheduled regarding the Ricketts property. The EPA has conducted some testing on the property in August 2016 and would like to conduct additional testing on 2-3 dozen houses downhill from the property. They would like to get the testing underway in February as basements are generally closed up and if there is a buildup of soil vapors February is the best month to do the testing.

Mr. Congdon made a comment about equalization rates in his town.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Veitch, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board