

EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Hunter, Connelly, Raymond, Rowland, Southworth, and Thompson; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Carol Holley, Real Property; Sam Pitcherelle, Treasurer, Mark Rider, County Attorney; Press.

Chairman M. Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Raymond the minutes of the December 10, 2007 and January 15, 2008 meetings were approved unanimously.

Chairman M. Johnson announced the appointment of Ms. Raymond as the committee Vice Chairman.

Mr. Pitcherelle requested a resolution to approve the following tender offers in each of the following towns: Hadley – \$10,851.02; Halfmoon – \$19,649.47; Wilton - \$15,266.66; for a total of \$45,767.15.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve tender offers in each of the following towns: Hadley, Halfmoon and Wilton for a total of \$45,767.15. Unanimous.

Ms. Holley requested committee approval to set the County Auction date and time for March 18, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve the County Auction date as March 18, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)

Ms. Holley said in 2007 the Board of Supervisors approved a contract for a Real Property Tax Administration Technology and Improvement Grant to convert all the Real Property tax maps into a GIS format, and making more information available on the Internet.

Mr. Hellwig said the county approved appropriating \$46,000, with the remaining \$110,000 to be covered under a State grant. This year's \$134,420 in expenses and \$65,250 in revenues leaves a balance of approximately \$69,000 which will be reappropriated from the fund balance.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve a resolution to amend the 2008 County budget and to reappropriate \$134,420 in expenses and revenues for the continuation of the Real Property Tax Administration and Technology Improvement Grant. Unanimous.

Ms. Holley requested a resolution to approve Corrections and Cancellations to the 2008 tax rolls as follows:

Corrections to 2008 Tax Roll

Saratoga - \$2,817.06 - Aged exemption removed in error

Wilton - \$45,446.00 - Sewer units were carried over from parent parcel in error

A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Rowland to approve the above corrections to the 2008 Tax Roll. Unanimous.

Cancellations to 2008 Tax Roll

Ballston - \$106.63 - Parcel is part of Rt. 50 right of way per NYS inquiry

A motion was made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve the above cancellations to the 2008 Tax Roll. Unanimous.

Chairman M. Johnson said there has been some information in the paper about the State not paying taxes on State owned land.

Mr. Rider said the chairman of the Board of Supervisors in Warren County has spearheaded a movement amongst the counties to get together and hire an appellate council of their own. The cost to each county would be between \$4,000-\$5,000 if all counties participate.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Connelly to forward a recommendation on to the Law and Finance Committee, to join with other area counties, to hire an appellate council for the purpose of seeking tax payments from State owned lands at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Hunter to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Litigation. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Thompson to reopen to regular session. Unanimous.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Connelly to direct the County Attorney to notify Caliber Investments that the 60-day period in their offer is approaching. The county would like \$100,000 deposited into an escrow account no later than the close of business on February 22, 2008, and that the contract be signed no later than March 14, 2008. If this is not done, it will be recommended that the original resolution authorizing the agreement be rescinded at the February 26, 2008 meeting, and the property be conveyed to Riverview Realty for the sum of \$50,000. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Rowland the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom