

Equalization and Assessment Committee Minutes

January 12, 2009 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Connelly, Grattidge, Hunter, Raymond, Thompson, Yepsen, and Wormuth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Sam Pitcheralle, Treasurer; Carol Holley, Real Property; League of Women Voters; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Thompson the minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman M. Johnson announced the appointment of Mr. Connelly as Vice Chairman of the committee.

Mr. Pitcheralle distributed a copy of four tender payments, one in each of the following towns: Halfmoon, Milton, Milton/Village Ballston Spa, Saratoga/Village Schuylerville

Mr. Pitcheralle requested a resolution to accept a tender payment in the Town of Halfmoon for a total of \$4,199.66; and a tender payment in the Town of Milton for a total of \$2,952.24.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Thompson to accept two tender payments, one in the town of Halfmoon for a total of \$4,199.66; and one in the town of Milton, for a total of \$2,952.24. Unanimous.

Mr. Rider said he provided each committee member with a copy of the committee rules and the private road procedures for their review.

Mr. Rider said many times a developer will finish a development and the road doesn't get dedicated to the town and the town does not pay the taxes because the developer still owns all the lots. The same occurs on private roads as well.

Mr. Rider said there is a procedure under the real property tax law, which allows the Board of Supervisors to declare the property in such a state that there is a higher potential for liability than the value of the taxes and what might be received at the sale. If this is the case and the taxes are canceled it becomes a tax-exempt property and the taxes are no longer collected. The outstanding taxes are charged back to the town.

Mrs. Raymond suggested including in the private road procedure, giving the surrounding homeowners the opportunity to purchase the property.

Mr. Rider said Trustco Bank has deposited all the taxes, penalties and interest and are now requesting that the county convey the property located in the Town of Milton/Village of Ballston Spa to the bank.

A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Connelly to convey a property in the Town of Milton/Village of Ballston Spa, to Trustco Bank for taxes, penalties and interest in the amount of \$11,491.76. Unanimous.

Ms. Raymond said there should be a policy that if a bank has been properly notified and requests that the property be conveyed back to them they ought to be required to pay a penalty. She requested that Mr. Rider report back with information at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Rider said there is a property in the Town of Saratoga/Village of Schuylerville where the village would like to purchase the property from the county.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to convey a parcel in the town of Saratoga/Village of Schuylerville to the village for \$43,618.79. Unanimous.

Ms. Holley said the real property tax department administers corrections and refunds to tax bills. She has requested authorization for the Auditor to approve refunds and corrections under \$2,500.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve a resolution authorizing the County Auditor to approve tax refunds under \$2,500 with the approval of the County Treasurer and the Director of Real Property. Unanimous.

Ms. Holley requested approval of the county auction date of March 17, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Gattidge to approve the county auction for March 17, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom