

Real Property Tax Committee Minutes  
February 1, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Scott Ostrander; Committee Members C. Eric Butler, Tara Gaston, Jean Raymond and Sandra Winney. Supervisors Bill Peck and Ed Kinowski; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Michael Naughton, County Attorney; Chris Schall, Auditor; Anna Stanko, Real Property; Andrew Jarosh, Terri Wrisley, Stephanie Hodgson, Angela Politi, Treasurer, Craig Hayner, Colleen Gidley, County Clerk.

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

**On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Chairman Ostrander appointed Mrs. Raymond as Vice-Chair of the committee.

**A motion was made by Ms. Gaston, seconded by Mr. Butler, to authorize committee approval of the Auditor's 2021 Year End Report. Unanimous.**

Mr. Schall said the fourth quarter had no credits, corrections, or refunds and for the whole year there were \$5,958.59 which included the credits, corrections and refunds for the entire year.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Butler, to authorize the cancellation of delinquent taxes in the Towns of Clifton Park, Saratoga, Moreau, Corinth and Greenfield. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Stanko said these five parcels have unpaid taxes, some since 2002, and this year they want to take care of them before the foreclosure. Mr. Kinowski expressed concern that right of way property owners would choose not to pay taxes to have moved to Section 8. Mrs. Stanko said they would take it on a case by case basis. Mrs. Raymond said as she understands it the landowner's rights and property values would be affected if they don't take ownership. Mr. Jarosh said the Real Property Working Group will bring forward some proposals for the committee in the future. Ms. Gaston said she would like to see a policy formed instead of handling things on a case by case basis.

**A motion was made by Mrs. Winney, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to authorize a correction to a tax bill for a parcel in the Town of Waterford. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Stanko said this a resolution to correct a school tax bill that was erroneously applied to a different parcel.

**A motion was made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to authorize agreements with the Town of Ballston and the NYS DEC Spill Fund regarding the Magnum Site in the Town of Ballston. Unanimous.**

Mr. Hartnett said the Magnum site is a former gas station that has been abandoned and environmentally impacted. The NYS DEC, the County and the Town of Ballston will work together to get this parcel cleaned up, with the County foreclosing and obtaining ownership of the property and the DEC providing environmental remediation and cleanup. The Town of Ballston will pay the County \$7,000 for the property, the County will pay the DEC Spill Fund \$7,000 for the remediation and clean up, and the DEC will provide a waiver of liability related to the environmental contamination. All is contingent upon foreclosure and the County obtaining title of the property.

*Format for Future Tax Foreclosed Property Auctions Discussion*

Mr. Jarosh said in 2020 the County used Auctions International, an online auction company, for the tax foreclosed properties instead of a live auction and not only was it easier and less hectic for County employees, but it was also the largest single auction ever done by the County with bidders from across the country. Mr. Jarosh said the contract with Auctions International is expired and he'd like to know the Committee's insight about moving forward with online auctions. All committee members were in favor of moving to online auctions for this year's foreclosure.

*Inter-municipal System for Unified Tax Collection*

Mr. Jarosh said that the delinquent tax software operating system they currently use is functional but inflexible and was built twenty years ago and if the State changes the Real Property Tax Law it would be challenging for them to keep up with changes. Mr. Jarosh said he would like to explore ways to upgrade the property tax software system and would like the new system to have the ability to be used by all taxing jurisdictions in the County and make it easier for taxpayers to pay taxes. Mr. Jarosh said it is a massive undertaking and he would like the committee to consider setting up an exploratory committee to start looking into it. Mr. Ostrander said it's a great idea for future meetings.

**On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget Rider  
Deputy Clerk of the Board