

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

Present: Chairman Scott Ostrander; Committee Members C. Eric Butler, Tara Gaston, Jean Raymond and Sandra Winney. Supervisor Phil Barrett; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Stephanie Hodgson, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Chris Schall, Auditor; Jennifer Taylor, Andrew Jarosh, Terri Wrisley, Treasurer.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Winney, seconded by Mrs. Raymond, to approve the Quarterly Report. Unanimous.

Mr. Schall said for the first quarter of 2022 corrections totaled \$2,335.74 and refunds totaled \$4,474.19.

Discussion – Funding for Environmental Testing Projects

Mr. Hartnett said one of the challenges that arises in Real Property Tax Article 11 is properties that may have environmental contamination are usually removed from the foreclosure process because under the navigation law if there's petroleum in the soil, or if there's petroleum contamination, anybody who obtains ownership of that parcel is responsible for the cost and suggested for discussion that the County earmark a portion of the surplus funds from the auction to pursue these properties for cleanup and get them back on the tax rolls. Mr. Hartnett said since 2015 the auction has generated \$4,008,975 in surplus funds. Mrs. Raymond was in favor of the idea and asked for the number of parcels, a list of how long they've been off the tax rolls and how much they owe so they can prioritize which properties to pursue first. Ms. Gaston suggested tying the amount put aside each year to the number of properties. Mr. Ostrander supported the idea. Mr. Barrett expressed support and thanked Mr. Hartnett, Mr. Jarosh and their staff for moving forward in regard to these properties.

Discussion – In Rem 2018-2019 Foreclosure Process

Mr. Jarosh said that the initial goal was to complete the 2018 and 2019 foreclosure process at the same time but as the deadlines approach he thinks it would be advantageous for them to continue foreclosing on the 2018 delinquent properties and do 2019 and 2020 next year. Mrs. Raymond asked if there are any big ticket items and if so, she would rather pull them in if possible. Mr. Jarosh said due to the moratoriums and executive orders, they haven't pursued In Rem in a couple of years which has resulted in higher numbers than normal.

On a motion made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Butler, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board