

TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
SPECIAL MEETING
Feb 25, 2020
4:00 pm
Room 141, Assessor's Office

Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Vincenzi called the meeting to order at 4:08pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members Bill Vincenzi and Bob Milardo, Alternate
Charlie Epstein and Assessor Shawna Baron

Absent: Board Member Justin Boutin and Alternate Julie Ritter

A *motion* was made by Mr. Vincenzi, *seconded* by Mr. Milardo to seat Alternate
Charlie Epstein. All in favor; **motion passed**.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint a Chairman for the 2019 Grand List BAA
Hearings.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Milardo, *seconded* by Mr. Epstein to appoint Bill
Vincenzi as Chairman. All in favor; **motion passed**.

2. Appoint a Clerk for 2019 Grand List BAA hearings.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Epstein, *seconded* by Mr. Milardo to appoint Lisa
Ruggiero as Clerk. All in favor; **motion passed**.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding past practice of the Board's 2 year decision on motor vehicles assessments.

Chairman Vincenzi advised the Board that he thinks it makes sense to keep the 2 year decision policy on motor vehicle decisions. In his experience, taxpayers have expressed anger that they have to come back annually to get their car values reduced. He believes that this policy has benefited the majority; although at least one person last year did not benefit, still had the right to appeal. Mr. Epstein said that car values go down every year and believed that taxpayers should have the right to appeal every year. He also believed that it isn't advertised enough what values are used and he wants more people to understand that the value is as of Oct 1 of every year, not 2 days before the appellant comes in to appeal. Ms. Baron explained that if the 2 year policy is discarded, the values will be reset to the NADA value for the year after the BAA decision. She concurred with Mr. Vincenzi that people were angry when it reverted back to a one year decision and Mr. Vincenzi reiterated that he wanted to please the majority. In support of Mr. Epstein's concern that taxpayers are unaware of the Oct 1 date, Ms. Baron said that for the September session, the staff would remind people that the value of the car is as of Oct 1. Mr. Milardo believes that taxpayers should have to appeal every year.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Milardo, *seconded* by Mr. Epstein, to discard the 2 year decision policy. All in favor; **motion passed**.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the Board's decision to hear appeals for commercial, industrial, utility or an apartment with an assessment greater than \$1,000,000.

Ms. Baron advised the Board that there is one commercial appeal that is over \$1,000,000 and Mr. Vincenzi reminded the Board that they are not required to hear it. Mr. Epstein acknowledged that those cases typically end up in court and can be complex. Mr. Milardo stated that he felt that the case should be heard.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Epstein, *seconded* by Mr. Milardo to not hear appeals for commercial, industrial, utility or an apartment with an assessment greater than \$1,000,000. All in favor; **motion passed**.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the hearing schedule for the March 2020 session.

Ms. Baron told the Board that there were 41 appeals and broke them down by type. She went on to explain that the Assessor's Office is still working to resolve some of them in advance of the hearings. Mr. Epstein acknowledged that as an Alternate the present Board members should work the dates out. It was determined that the meeting dates would be March 19, March 24 and March 26 beginning at 5pm and would be held outside of the Tax Collector's Office in the lobby area. Mr. Epstein advised that he would not be able to attend the meeting on the 24th and Alternate Ritter should be advised.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

E. STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Baron reviewed some details on a few of the appeals. She also encouraged the Board to consider setting a date for the September session during one of their March meetings.

F. ADJOURNMENT

A *motion* was made by Mr. Vincenzi, *seconded* by Mr. Milardo to end the meeting at 4:45pm. All in favor; **motion passed.**


Lisa Ruggiero,
BAA Clerk