

**Town of Cromwell
Board of Assessment Appeals
Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
5:00pm Assessor's Office**

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vincenzi 5:10 pm.
- B. Roll Call:** Board Members Chairman William Vincenzi, Matthew Long present.
Roy Rowland: Absent.

A moment of silence was held in honor of the victims of 9/11.

C. New Business: 1. Hearings

Appellant: Kenneth Bobenski, 113 West Street, Cromwell
2013 Honda Odyssey Current Assessment: 12,250

Mr. Bobenski stated he has received the exemption of the retro-fitted vehicle for the last 3 years and wants to receive it on the 2018 Grand List as well. He was upset that he didn't receive the exemption this year and was told that he didn't receive the exemption because he didn't complete the annual exemption form. He was upset that if this was the case, why wasn't he notified and why wasn't the form mailed to him to complete.

NO ACTION.

Appellant: Michael Ulatowski, 30 Coles Road, Cromwell
2012 SNO PR C7X14S Current Assessment: 5,000

Mr. Ulatowski presented the Board with prices for similar enclosed trailers and stated that his value was too high based on what he presented.

The Board reviewed the documentation and noted that they were not able to determine the condition of Mr. Ulatowski's trailer.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Long, *seconded* by Chairman Vincenzi to reduce the assessment to 2,100. All in favor; **motion passed**.

Appellant: David Pare, 5 Bellevue Terrace, Cromwell
2005 Toyota Sienna Current Assessment: 3,780

Mr. Pare said he only recently became aware of the opportunity to apply for an exemption for retro handicapped vehicles within the last 2 years or so. Once he became aware, he contacted the Assessor's Office and submitted the application. He did not receive the exemption for 2017 and expressed his frustration with having received bad information from a former employee in the Assessor's Office. Although he filed a petition for the BAA for the 2017 Grand List, he did not appear for his scheduled hearing and he believed he was not clearly informed of the process. He applied for the 2018 GL exemption after the deadline and is now requesting that he be approved for the exemption for 2017 and 2018.

NO ACTION.

Appellant: Deborah and Frank Salerni, 4 Knight Lane, Cromwell
2001 Chevy Express Current Assessment: 2,780

The Salernis explained they have been receiving the exemption for the retro handicapped vehicle for the last 18 years. They stated since they received the exemption for all that time, they believed they had sent the form in annually. Last year, due to serious health issues, they neglected to send the form in on time.

NO ACTION.

Appellant: Jennifer Cherry Woods, 497 Main Street, Cromwell
2012 Ford Edge Current Assessment: 8,790

Ms. Woods advised the Board that she has appealed in the past and that her car now had apx 133,700 miles. The Board discussed values and how they were determined. Ms. Woods was requesting a reduction based on the age and miles.

Mr. Long believed the prior Board didn't use clean retail value to determine a price and likely reduced too much, but he also said that it should still be worth taking into account for the final decision.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Long, *seconded* by Chairman Vincenzi to reduce the assessment to 6,300. All in favor; **motion passed**.

Appellant: Ian Woods, 497 Main Street, Cromwell
2004 Nissan Titan Current Assessment: 6,475

Mr. Woods explained that he has appealed the truck before; Chairman Vincenzi confirmed that he remembered the condition and circumstances regarding the truck. Mr. Long believed the prior Board didn't use clean retail value to determine a price and likely reduced too much, but he also said that it should still be worth taking into account for the final decision.

A *motion* was made by Chairman Vincenzi, *seconded* by Mr. Long to reduce the assessment to 4,915. All in favor; **motion passed**.

Appellant: Jennifer Donohue, 32 Franklin Road, Cromwell
2016 Subaru Forester Current Assessment: 18,532

Ms. Donohue has appealed in the past and was concerned that her assessment has been the same for the last 3 years and the vehicle now has 62,000 miles and has some scratches on the back and is mostly cosmetic. She advised the Board that she brought the car to a dealer and they told her that they could possibly get between \$22-23,000 for it. The Board reviewed the past years' decisions. The 2018 assessment was a result of the current Board's decision to create a policy to honor their decision for 2 years. Ms. Donohue received the same assessment based on the Board's 2017 decision; this assessment overrode the NADA pricing. Mr. Long explained to Ms. Donohue the reasons why the Board instituted the policy and the policy was discussed. Ms. Donohue did not find this policy fair and disagreed with the policy and said that as a citizen she should be allowed to come to the Board every year and the Board's decision should not extend for two years. She explained that she planned on making people aware that this was a BAA policy in an open forum.

The Board reviewed their 2 year decision policy and the reasoning behind it noting that their intentions were good and it was well thought through after many people had complained in the past that they had to come every year to appeal their car assessment. They acknowledged the

appellants right to present before the Board should they wish to appeal. The Board reviewed the NADA values for the vehicle and discussed what they had approved for Ms. Donohue in the past. Chairman Vincenzi noted that they should not undo their decision to keep the approved assessments for 2 years. He noted in light of the concerns that Ms. Donohue has brought to their attention this evening, the future Board may wish to reconsider the 2 year decision policy.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Long, *seconded* by Chairman Vincenzi to DENY the appeal based on the fact that they cannot overturn their policy without affecting all of the others that received a 2 year decision assessment. All in favor; **motion passed**.

Appellant: Alison Rydzewski, 123 West Street, Apt 426, Cromwell
2012 Dodge Grand CA Current Assessment: 6,250

Ms. Rydzewski explained to the Board that she was requesting the same exemption she has received for years on the vehicle. She stated that a new application should be required if a new vehicle was acquired, but could not see why it was an annual application for the same retro-fitted vehicle that was already approved. The Board explained that the ordinance is what the Assessor's Office needs to go by and that to request a change, she should contact member(s) of the Town Council.

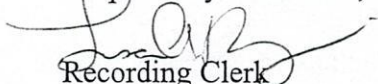
NO ACTION.

D. Old Business: None.

E. Staff Comments: The Board acknowledged that they did not have the authority to grant exemptions; but Mr. Long noted that they could give a value of their choosing. Mr. Long pointed out that the ordinance doesn't give the Board the right to grant the exemption through the appeal process and it appeared as though that the Assessor's Office recently started enforcing the annual application requirement since many people who have not received a bill in the past have now received one. He also noted that Mr. Pare's scenario was not like the others. The Board plans to consult with the Assessor and will make the remaining decisions in a follow up meeting to be held Thursday, September 19, 2019 t 5:00pm in the Assessor's Office.

F. Adjournment: Chairman Vincenzi *motioned* to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm; Mr. Long *seconded*. All in favor; **motion passed**.

Respectfully Submitted,


Recording Clerk