

**ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION  
REORGANIZATION BOARD MEETING AGENDA  
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020  
9:00 AM**

**\*\* By Phone Conference due to COVID19\*\***

**THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE NEWARK STAR LEDGER, A LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND SUCH NOTICE HAVING BEEN POSTED IN THE ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION.**

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. Reorganization**
- 3. Approve Meeting Dates for the Coming Year**
- 4. Motion to approve all appeals including Tax Court Pending, Affirmances, Stipulations and Withdrawals**
- 5. Appoint Kenya Kourkoulis OPRA Custodian of Records for the Tax Board**
- 6. Update of Revaluations: 2021 North Caldwell, Nutley & Roseland, 2022 East Orange, 2023 Newark, 2024 Irvington & Orange, 2025 West Orange**
- 7. Discussion Regarding Extension for 2021 Reval Towns**
- 8. Update of Preliminary/Final Equalization Table**
- 9. Update of Deeds**
- 10. Update of Appeals**
- 11. Confirming Signature stamps acceptable on documents**
- 12. New Business**
- 13. Public Speakers**
- 14. Adjournment**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

<b>O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>DEFURIA</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>GRODMAN</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>JOHNSON</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>MATARAZZO</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ADMIN. DURKIN</b>	<b>X</b>	

**\*Agenda can be amended at any time prior to meeting\***

A meeting of the Essex County Board of Taxation was held via Phone Conference due to COVID-19 on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 9:11 AM.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following members were present: President O'Brien, Commissioners DeFuria, Grodman, Johnson, Matarazzo and Tax Administrator Durkin.

**2. REORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to nominate Commissioner O'Brien for the position of President of the Essex County Board of Taxation, Seconded by Commissioner DeFuria, all in favor motion approved.

**3. APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR THE COMING YEAR**

A motion to approve the meeting dates for the coming year was made by Commissioner DeFuria, Seconded by Commissioner Matarazzo, all in favor motion approved. The meeting dates are as follows: Friday, May 1, 2020 -Reorganization, June 4, 2020 – Monthly Board Meeting, June 30, 2020 – Special Phone/Video Conference Meeting, July – No Monthly Board Meeting, July 31, 2020 – Special Phone/Video Conference Meeting, August – No Monthly Board Meeting, August 21, 2020 – Special Phone/Video Conference Meeting, September 10, 2020 – Monthly Board Meeting, October 1, 2020 – File Added/Omitted Books & Monthly Board Meeting, November 5, 2020 – Monthly Board Meeting, December 17, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting & Appeal Hearings for Added/Omitted, January 11, 2021 – Monthly Board Meeting & File Assessment List & Duplicates, February 4, 2021 – Monthly Board Meeting, March 4, 2021 – Monthly Board Meeting, April 2, 2021 – Monthly Board Meeting, May 3, 2021 – Reorganization Meeting.

**4. MOTION TO APPROVE ALL APPEALS INCLUDING TAX COURT PENDING, AFFIRMANCES, STIPULATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve all Appeals as stated above, Seconded by Commissioner Matarazzo, all in favor motion approved.

**5. APPOINT KENYA KOURKOULIS OPRA CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS FOR THE TAX BOARD**

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to appoint Kenya Kourkoulis OPRA Custodian of Records for the Tax Board, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

**6. UPDATE OF REVALUATIONS: 2021 NORTH CALDWELL, NUTLEY & ROSELAND, 2022 EAST ORANGE, 2023 NEWARK, 2024 IRVINGTON & ORANGE, 2025 WEST ORANGE**

A motion to approve the rescheduling of the North Caldwell Revaluation from 2021 to 2022 was made by Commissioner Johnson, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

A motion to approve the rescheduling of the Nutley Revaluation from 2021 to 2022 was made by Commissioner Johnson, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

A motion to approve the rescheduling of the Roseland Revaluation from 2021 to 2022 was made by Commissioner Johnson, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

The East Orange Assessor Romal Bullock was not present for the phone conference monthly meeting, so his report was read into the record as follows: the bonding ordinance has been drafted and was on the Municipal City Council meeting agenda for April 27, 2020. The final draft of the bid specifications and contract draft are complete and are being prepared for the City Council committee in anticipation of the May 11, 2020 Council meeting.

The Newark Assessor Aaron Wilson was not present for the phone conference monthly meeting, so Administrator Durkin reported the following: The Newark City Tax Maps may be a problem regarding changing the condominium Block and Lot numbers. An additional concern is the financing for the revaluation due to the lack of funds attributed by the strain on collected taxes due to COVID-19, discussion followed.

Irvington Assessor Silvia Forbes was not present for the phone conference so she submitted her timeline for the revaluation with a comment that Irvington's CFO has approved Civil Solutions for the update of the Towns Tax Maps regarding 4 new subdivisions.

Orange Tax Assessor Christopher Murray was not present for the phone conference. His report stated he had no updates regarding the 2024 Revaluation. Administrator Durkin did not hear back from Orange's Business Administrator regarding reconsidering not to push revaluation up due to the current COVID-19 concerns.

West Orange Assessor Kevin Dillon was not present for the phone conference and his report stated that the Consent Agreement from the State was scheduled for consideration at the March 24, 2020 Municipal Council Meeting, however due to COVID-19 the meeting was cancelled.

**7. DISCUSSION REGARDING EXTENSIONS FOR 2021 REVALUATION TOWNS**

Each of the above Municipalities referred to in item #6 discussed with their respective Municipal Officials to move their Revaluations for one year. Both North Caldwell and Roseland received assurance that there would be no additional cost to defer the contract for one year. Nutley has not yet heard back from Appraisal Systems. Resolutions

approving the rescheduling of the three Municipalities Revaluations will be voted on at the June 4, 2020 Board Meeting.

**8. UPDATE OF PRELIMINARY/FINAL EQUALIZATION TABLE**

Auditor Joseph Faccone lost his wife and he was in quarantine due to COVID-19, (this week ends his two-week quarantine) and he will be sending a courier to pick up the necessary paperwork to complete the Tables.

Also due to Bloomfield not having an appointed Assessor the information regarding Chapter 441 that is to be included in the Tables was not readily available.

**9. UPDATE OF DEEDS**

The deeds have been keyed up to April 15, 2020 Ivette Czaja is imputing them remotely.

**10. UPDATE OF APPEALS**

2,278 Appeals have been filed to date, 836 have been disposed of due to Tax Court Pending, Stipulations and Withdrawals. Administrator Durkin is reaching out to Assessors to settle as many justified cases as possible to lessen the number of taxpayers attending hearings. Discussion regarding inspections and submitting evidence followed.

**11. CONFIRMING SIGNATURE STAMPS ACCEPTALBE ON DOCUMENTS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to confirm that signature stamps are acceptable on documents, Seconded by Commissioner DeFuria, all in favor motion approved.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**13. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

None

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Matarazzo to adjourn the meeting at 10 AM Seconded by Commissioner DeFuria, all in favor motion approved.

**Respectfully Submitted  
Joan Codey Durkin, CTA  
Tax Administrator**

**JCD/el**

