

**ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
BOARD MEETING**

AGENDA

Thursday, September 10, 2020

9:00 A.M.

**** By Video Conference ****

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. **Motion to approve August 21, 2020 Video Conference Call Minutes**
3. **Motion to Approve Judgments Rendered from August 24, 2020 through September 10, 2020**
4. **Tax Rates to be approved: Bloomfield, Cedar Grove, East Orange, Essex Fells, Glen Ridge, Livingston, Maplewood, Millburn, Montclair, Orange, Roseland, So. Orange, Verona, W. Caldwell**
5. **Bloomfield Assessor Vacancy**
6. **Update of Revaluations: 2022 East Orange, North Caldwell, Nutley & Roseland, 2023 Newark, 2024 Irvington**
7. **Orange Revaluation Update: Resolution to Change Reval Year Sent to State**
8. **West Orange Revaluation Update**
9. **Essex Fells Reassessment Update**
10. **Status of Deeds**
11. **Appeal Hearing Extension Update**
12. **Status of Appeals**
13. **October 1, 2020 Board Meeting**
14. **Public Speakers**
15. **New Business**
16. **Adjournment**

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT

ABSENT

O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT

X

DEFURIA

X

GRODMAN

X

JOHNSON

X

MATARAZZO

X

ADMINISTRATOR DURKIN

X

AGENDA MAY BE AMENDED PRIOR TO BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Essex County Tax Board was held via Zoom on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 9:10 AM.

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance via Zoom Conference were: President O'Brien, Commissioners DeFuria, Grodman, Johnson and Administrator Durkin. Absent was Commissioner Matarazzo.

2. MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 21, 2020 VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 21, 2020 minutes was made by Commissioner Grodman, Seconded by Commissioner DeFuria, all in favor, motion approved.

3. MOTION TO APPROVE JUDGMENTS RENDERED FROM AUGUST 24, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

A motion to approve Judgments rendered from August 24, 2020 through September 10, 2020 was made by Commissioner Johnson, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor, motion approved.

4. TAX RATES TO BE APPROVED: BLOOMFIELD, CEDAR GROVE, EAST ORANGE, ESSEX FIELDS, GLEN RIDGE, LIVINGSTON, MAPLEWOOD, MILLBURN, ORANGE, ROSELAND, SOUTH ORANGE, VERONA AND WEST CALDWELL

A motion to approve the Tax Rates for the above mentioned towns was made by Commissioner Grodman, Seconded by Commissioner DeFuria, all in favor, motion approved.

5. BLOOMFIELD ASSESSOR VACANCY

The vacant position for the Bloomfield Assessor has been filled by Justin Lamicella. President O'Brien welcomed Justin and he expressed his excitement to be part of the Essex County Assessor's team.

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

2022 East Orange Assessor Romal Bullock submitted a written report stating that the Revaluation Contract needs to be signed, he will submit it simultaneously to the Tax Board.

Nutley Assessor Edmund Brown reported that intro letters were sent to taxpayers prior to the pandemic. He anticipates inspections will resume sometime in October.

North Caldwell Assessor George Librizzi submitted a written report stating he is waiting to start inspections.

Roseland Assessor Kevin Esposito submitted a written report stating he is waiting for Inspections to restart.

2023 Newark Assessor Aaron Wilson reported that tax maps are being revised and Condominium block and lot numbers have been updated. Financing for the revaluation will be funded next year due to the loss of revenue for the 4th quarter of this year.

2024 Irvington Assessor Silvia Forbes submitted a written report stating that tax maps are being revised.

7. ORANGE REVALUATION UPDATE: RESOLUTION TO CHANGE REVAL YEAR SENT TO STATE

There has been no response from the State as of yet with regard to the Resolution.

8. WEST ORANGE REVALUATION UPDATE

A request was made by West Orange to change the dates in Article A, from January 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020 so the order can be signed. We have not received notice from Deputy Attorney conforming order to 2025.

9. ESSEX FELLS REASSESSMENT UPDATE

The governing body of Essex Fells did not place the Reassessment matter on the Council agenda until 9/15/20. RFP to then be advertised.

10. STATUS OF DEEDS

As of today's date, 2,813 deeds have been keyed into the system.

11. APPEAL HEARING EXTENSION UPDATE.

The State has not responded to the request for the Appeal extension date.

12. STATUS OF APPEALS

The Tax Appeal hearings are scheduled to start on September 22, 2020: Scheduled towns include Belleville, Caldwell, Cedar Grove, East Orange, Essex Fells, Fairfield, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Maplewood, some of Newark, North Caldwell, Nutley, Orange, Roseland, Verona and West Caldwell.

There are still towns to be scheduled with a number of appeals: Bloomfield, Livingston, Millburn, Newark (32) appeals and West Orange.

Only three Commissioners (Johnson, Grodman and Matarazzo) are scheduled to hear cases at the Tax Board. President O'Brien and Commissioner DeFuria due to family health issues will be available to help in other ways. Administrator Durkin is investigating various suggestions to accommodate both Commissioners and Taxpayers.

The Essex County Health Officer has placed certain restrictions that must be adhered to for the well being of the staff and taxpayers. Masks must be worn when entering the building from the Burnett Street entrance, temperatures will be taken, only two people on the elevator and social distancing. There will be instructions on entry and exit from the office. Hand sanitizers are available throughout the Tax Board Office. The office is restricted to personnel and only the Assessor's will be allowed to make any necessary copies. The office staff will not make copies under any condition.

Administrator Durkin reminded the Commissioners that all Assessors must submit evidence for settlements. Hearings have been scheduled starting September 22nd through October 8th.

13. OCTOBER 1, 2020 BOARD MEETING.

On October 1, 2020 there will be a meeting via Zoom and all Assessors will be reminded to arrange to sign and pick up Added/Omitted Assessment Books at the Tax Board.

A seminar is tentatively scheduled for November 13, 2020 at the Boathouse to acquire credits. The particulars are currently being worked on and a notice will be sent to all when the event is in place.

A discussion on a West Orange Tax Appeal issue was discussed and it was decided to ask the State Division or the Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Tax Board for guidance to resolve the matter.

14. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. ADJOURNMENT

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