



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## *Board of Assessment Appeals*

Meeting Recording:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/6RV12Kex4\\_VsASlAmdkjGnsNTh7G3X5GthVmcgB8t-dSmCqsP6ODZ9AvWxNrrbM5.8LHOELi91fmOfkP](https://zoom.us/rec/share/6RV12Kex4_VsASlAmdkjGnsNTh7G3X5GthVmcgB8t-dSmCqsP6ODZ9AvWxNrrbM5.8LHOELi91fmOfkP)

Access Passcode: !66&G#JF

**Minutes:** *The Board of Assessment Appeals, Town of Hamden held a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 via virtual Zoom; the following issues were discussed:*

**Attending:** Kurt Bauknecht, chair; John DeNicola, James Pascarella. Also in attendance: Sue Gruen, Town Attorney; Adam Blank, Town Attorney; Scott Jackson, Town Business Manager; David Stannard, Interim Chief Assessor; and Patrice LeMoine, Clerk for the Commission.

- 1. Call to order:** Mr. Bauknecht called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.
- 2. Open Session:**

At this time, Mr. Stannard provided the approximate number of appeal requests received. There is approximately 190 to 205 of commercial and residential received; the majority were received via paper and a small number were submitted electronically. He will review those applicants that may not qualify for a hearing. Those applicants who applied and had an amended assessment a prior year may not be eligible and those commercial properties that have been assessed at a one million or greater will be contacted by the Assessor's office. Mr. Stannard will review and determine this week.

The upcoming property assessment workshop was rescheduled from last week and will be held this week. Mr. DeNicola received confirmation to attend this Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Stannard and his colleague are attending this Wednesday's workshop.

Ms. LeMoine requested confirmation regarding the logistics for holding the hearings. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the BAA will conduct the hearings on the

internet through the Town's own teleconferencing program, Zoom. At first the Board requested to divide the number of applicants by the three members and each would hold the hearings separately and reconvene for deliberations. At the end, the three members decided to conduct the hearings as a full Board. The applicants will be assigned a hearing date in March for which each will be contacted by U.S. mail, including the Zoom instructions, and posting the same on the BAA's webpage. Due to the volume of hearing requests and the limited time in which the BAA must complete all hearings, the BAA are unable to accommodate special requests and unable to modify hearing dates and times. The BAA will schedule hearings from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25. With the number of hearings, the Board will book each applicant ten (10) minutes to present his/her information. A meeting for deliberations will be held on March 26, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Attorneys Gruen and Blank advised the Board with the proper protocols to conducting the hearings via virtually. Ms. LeMoine agreed to forward the appointment advice letter for Attorneys Gruen and Blank's final opinion and recommendations. Once confirmed, the letter will be used to mail to those eligible for a hearing the first week of March.

At 8:15 p.m. the Board thanked everyone for their time and input. Mr. Jackson, and Attorneys Gruen, Blank then withdrew from the meeting.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Bauknecht requested a motion to approve the past minutes. Mr. Pascarella motioned to approve the minutes from the January 14 and February 11, 2021 as presented. Mr. DeNicola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Old Business:**

The Board held a discussion with Mr. Stannard regarding his review of the appeal applications, the process and examples of the residential assessments presented by the consulting company. Mr. DeNicola requested from Mr. Stannard the transcripts from those informal hearings held between the taxpayers/property owners and the consultants. And Mr. Bauknecht asked if the new assessment cards would be provided and enclosed to each applicant's file before the hearings.

**5. Adjournment:** By mutual agreement and with no other business to address, Mr. Bauknecht requested to adjourn. Mr. DeNicola motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Pascarella seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

s/ Patrice A. LeMoine

Clerk for the Board of Assessment Appeals

*Submitted: February 27, 2021*