

**ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
BOARD MEETING
AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 8, 2021
9:00 A.M.**

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. *Approval of March 2021 minutes*
3. *Adopt 100% Resolution*
4. *Approve Overrides: Fairfield & Irvington*
5. *Motion to approve all Judgments up to April 8, 2021: Tax Court Pending, Affirmances, Stipulations and Withdrawals presented at meeting.*
6. *Update of 2021 Preliminary Equalization Table/Final Equalization Table*
7. *Update Fairfield Assessor Retirement*
8. *Update of Revaluations: 2022 East Orange, North Caldwell, Nutley, Orange & Roseland,, 2023 Newark, 2024 Irvington & 2025 West Orange*
9. *Status of Deeds*
10. *Status of Appeals*
11. *Update of Hearings*
12. *New Business*
13. *Adjournment*

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT

ABSENT

O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT

X

DEFURIA

X

GRODMAN

X

JOHNSON

X

MATARAZZO, JR.

X

ADMIN. DURKIN

X

*** AGENDA MAY BE AMENDED PRIOR TO BOARD MEETING***

A meeting of the Essex County Board of Taxation was held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 9:15 AM at its office located at 50 South Clinton Street, East Orange, New Jersey.

1. ROLL CALL

President O'Brien, Commissioners Grodman, Johnson, Matarazzo and Tax Administrator Durkin were present. Commissioner DeFuria was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2021 MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of March 2021 was made by Commissioner Grodman, Seconded by Commissioner Johnson, all in favor motion approved.

3. ADOPT 100% RESOLUTION

A 100% Resolution was read into the record by Commissioner Johnson, a motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Commissioner Grodman, Seconded by Commissioner Matarazzo, all in favor motion approved.

4. APPROVAL OF OVERRIDES: FAIRFIELD & IRVINGTON

A motion to approve the overrides for Fairfield & Irvington was made by Commissioner Matarazzo, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

5. MOTION TO APPROVE ALL JUDGMENTS UP TO APRIL 8, 2021: TAX COURT PENDING, AFFIRMANCES, STIPULATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS PRESENTED AT MEETING

A motion to approve all Judgments up to April 8, 2021, Tax Court Pending, Affirmances, Stipulations and Withdrawals presented at meeting was made by Commissioner Matarazzo, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved. Be it noted that Commissioner Johnson abstained.

6. UPDATE OF 2021 PRELIMINARY EQUALIZATION TABLE/FINAL EQUALIZATION TABLE

A motion to approve the 2021 Preliminary Equalization Table/Final Equalization Table pending Auditor review was made by Commissioner Matarazzo, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

7. UPDATE FAIRFIELD ASSESSOR RETIREMENT

Administrator Durkin advised the Board of the retirement of Assessor Michael Leposky on April 30, 2021. A search for replacement is being conducted.

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

East Orange Assessor Romal Bullock reported that they are mostly caught up with the scheduled timeline. All public information has been approved and Tyler is searching for individuals who are East Orange residents to be utilized as data collectors. After the hiring, it will take approximately 2 weeks for training. He is hopeful that they will be out in the field by this time next month.

North Caldwell Assessor George Librizzi reported that North Caldwell being a relatively small town will complete the revaluation on time. He stressed that the residents need to let the inspectors into their homes in light of the current pandemic. The revaluation company PPA will make 3 attempts to gain access to the properties. Inspections should start in May.

Nutley Assessor Edmund Brown reported that they are moving forward in May and the revaluation company Appraisal Systems has started commercial valuations and has completed 551 out of 9,000 properties. He also expressed concern with the ratio taking a 10% hit in the last 2 years.

Orange Assessor Chris Murray was not present at the meeting, however he submitted his report, which was read into the record by Administrator Durkin who stated that the Tax Maps have been approved and the revaluation contract will be awarded to PPA on April 20, 2021. Orange has approximately 5,000 properties.

Roseland Assessor Kevin Esposito was not present at the meeting, however he submitted his report which was read into the record by Administrator Durkin who stated that Roseland Municipal Council will approve a Resolution requesting the Essex County Board of Taxation will extend their revaluation from 2022 to 2023.

Newark Assessor Aaron Wilson reported that he along with Surveyor Joe Fox are investigating retaining Civil Solutions for help with the Tax Maps. He and Mr. Fox are reviewing what work needs to be done and explore what finances are available for a contract with Civil Solutions.

Irvington Assessor Silvia Forbes was not present at the meeting. Administrator Durkin read from Assessor Forbes' report that Civil Solutions is in the process of retrieving Irvington's original tax maps from their prior vendor. Administrator Durkin also informed the Board that Civil Solutions maintains most of the tax maps in Essex County and she is looking into obtaining digitized tax maps to be put on the web site.

West Orange Assessor Kevin Dillon was not present at the meeting and Administrator Durkin read from his report that West Orange is continuing to work on their tax maps and are continuing to follow the consent agreement timeline

9. STATUS OF DEEDS

Deeds keyed in as of today's date are 11,786 which is approximately 300 less than last year's month of March. Focus of the staff has been on tax appeals.

10. STATUS OF APPEALS

There are 737 Appeals left with 8 towns remaining to schedule in early May.

11. UPDATE OF HEARINGS

Availability of Commissioners for the month of May needs to be submitted to Tax Administrator Durkin as soon as possible. A discussion by Administrator Durkin followed on the move to the new building along with some issues of concern.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:47 AM was made by Commissioner Johnson, Seconded by Commissioner Grodman, all in favor motion approved.

Respectfully submitted
Joan Codey Durkin, Tax Administrator

JCD/el