

1 SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
2 27 Warren Street, 4th Floor
3 Somerville, NJ
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5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING
6 January 12th, 2016 – Regular Meeting
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8 The January regular monthly meeting of the Somerset County Board of Taxation was held at the Board
9 of Taxation offices on January 12th, 2016 starting at 12:05 PM. The meeting had been advertised in
10 accordance with State Law; upon roll call, President Lore, Vice President Rosen and Commissioners
11 Pappas and Marano were present. Tax Administrator Robert Vance and Assistant Tax Administrator
12 Dawn Guttschall were also present. The following matters were discussed.
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15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
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17 The minutes of the December 8th, 2015 Regular Meeting were submitted by the administrator to the
18 Commissioners for their approval. Approval of the minutes was moved by Commissioner Marano and
19 seconded by Vice President Rosen. The roll was called and the minutes for that meeting were approved
20 by all present.
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22 CORRESPONDENCE
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24 CORRESPONDENCE: An OPRA request submitted by property owner Michael Barth was
25 discussed. The administrator indicated that the request was answered with the assistance of Deputy
26 County Counsel Carl Taylor, Esq.
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29 OLD BUSINESS:
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- 31 1. Progress reports as received from all annually reassessing districts were summarized for the
32 commissioners by the administrator. All districts reported satisfactory progress to date, and
33 most indicated no problems with the expected completion of all work in time for the 2016
34 tax rolls. The administrator indicated that an exception was the Borough of Manville, which
35 has a district wide reassessment in progress and was not expecting to complete hearings
36 until the first week or two of February. The commissioners indicated that, should Manville
37 need an extension of time to complete its reassessment program, the administrator was
38 authorized to approve this.
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- 40 2. The current balance in the trust account was reported to be \$441,512.
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- 42 3. The finalized version of the Administrator's Annual Report to Somerset County
43 Municipalities was furnished to the commissioners. Administrator Vance indicated that he
44 would provide this report to all governing bodies in the County as well as to any other
45 interested parties.
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53 NEW BUSINESS:

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- 55 1. Administrator Vance discussed the status of the Monmouth ADP with the commissioners.
56 He informed them that Assessor Edward Kerwin and Assistant Tax Administrator Guttschall
57 would be attending a program in Monmouth County on Wednesday, January 13th and that
58 Mr. Kerwin would be sitting on a panel of individuals who would discuss the project. Mr.
59 Kerwin would be representing the County of Somerset and would be discussing the efficacy
60 of the annual reassessment process as it is conducted in Somerset County. Administrator
61 Vance had been asked to attend but had a meeting scheduled elsewhere that day and was
62 unable to do so. The invitation was, appropriately, extended to Mr. Kerwin who conducts
63 annual reassessment in six towns in Somerset County
64
 - 65 2. Administrator Vance informed the commissioners that he and Assessor Anthony DiRado of
66 Bridgewater Township would be attending a meeting with State Senator Mike Doherty on
67 January 13th, at his offices in Washington, NJ. This meeting was arranged by Commissioner
68 Pappas, for the purpose of discussing annual reassessment programs in Somerset County.
 - 69 3. NJ Senate bill No. 3301, as introduced by Sen. Stephen Sweeney, was discussed with all
70 present. This bill is intended to clarify that certain sports arenas owned by various counties
71 in New Jersey were to be exempted from property taxes.
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 - 73 4. NJ Senate bill No. 3299 was discussed, which is intended to establish an alternative method
74 of extracting revenue from so called "non-profit" hospitals in NJ. This proposed method,
75 which would collect fees based on the number of beds and the number of satellite facilities
76 operated by a given hospital, would eliminate traditional local valuation and assessment of
77 certain hospitals.
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 - 79 5. Administrator Vance indicated that the Education Committee of the NJACTB would be
80 meeting at these offices on Friday, January 15^h, for the purpose of finalizing plans for the
81 March seminar being given for New Jersey County Tax Board Commissioners. Both he and
82 Franklin Assessor Rick Carabelli serve on this committee. This seminar would be a one day
83 program to be held March 16th at Mercer County Community College. There is no fee for
84 any commissioner to attend this seminar, at which breakfast and munch would be served.
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87 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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89 During open discussion, Commissioner Marano suggested that Administrator Vance should
90 assemble information from all Somerset districts concerning legal expenses associated with the defense
91 of appeals. Administrator Vance indicated that he would prepare a draft letter for this purpose, to be
92 reviewed at the next meeting of the Board of Taxation.
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94 January 12th, 2016

95 Regular Meeting Minutes

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98 As there was no further comment, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner

99 Marano and seconded by President Lore, at 12:45 PM.

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

February 9th, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: President John M. Lore
ROLL CALL: Administrator Robert M. Vance
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: President John M. Lore

This meeting has been called under provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey and has been advertised in accordance with the Law.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: January 12th, 2016, Regular Monthly Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE:

An email request for information as received from Richard Onderko, the current Mayor of Manville, along with the response furnished to him by Administrator Vance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Progress reports as received from annually reassessing districts
2. Current balance in Trust Account

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Report on a meeting held January 13th, 2016, at Manalapan Township, Monmouth County concerning the Monmouth ADP reassessment project. Attendees were Assistant Administrator Dawn Guttschall and Tax Assessor Edward Kerwin.
2. Report on meetings held with State Senators Doherty and Smith, on January 13th and 27th, respectively, for the purpose of discussing the annual reassessment programs within Somerset County. The meetings were attended by Administrator Vance along with Assessor Anthony DiRado for Senator Doherty, and with both Assessor DiRado and Assessor Rick Carabelli for Sen. Smith.
3. Discussion of status of Senate Bill No. 3301, introduced by State Sen. Stephen Sweeney, dealing with assessable status of certain county owned properties including sports arenas, and also Senate Bill Mo. 3299 Re: Taxation of "Non-Profit" hospitals.

4. Filing of a Tax Court appeal by property owner Michael Barth following an unsuccessful appeal of a rollback assessment in Bernards Township, heard following the October, 2015 meeting of the Board of Taxation. The appeal names Administrator Vance and several commissioners, along with the Assessor of Bernards and Bernard Township as defendants, and seeks \$1 million in compensatory damages.

5. Educational Programs scheduled over the next 60 days include the following:
 - a. NJACTB Seminar for tax board commissioners, scheduled for Wednesday, March 16th, at Mercer County College.
 - b. NJ-IAAO 14th annual Tax Appeals seminar to be held at Forsgate Country Club on Thursday, March 10th, 2016.
 - c. 10th Annual Monmouth Conference to be held on Friday, February 26th, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in Eatontown, NJ.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Any other business as may come before the Board.