

1 SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
2 27 Warren Street, 4th Floor
3 Somerville, NJ
4

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING
6 July 14th, 2020 – Regular Meeting
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8 The July regular monthly meeting of the Somerset County Board of Taxation for 2020 was held via the
9 internet, using the Zoom platform, on July 14th, 2020 starting at 12:25 PM. The meeting had been
10 advertised in accordance with State Law; upon roll call, President Eader, Vice President Goldberg and
11 Commissioners Jordan, Linnus and Rosen were attending. Tax Administrator Robert Vance hosted the
12 meeting on line and Deputy Tax Administrator Dawn Guttschall was also attending. The start time for
13 this meeting was delayed due to technical issues with the internet and the computers. The following
14 matters were discussed.
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16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
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18 The minutes of the June 9th regular meeting of the Board of Taxation were submitted by the
19 administrator to the commissioners for their approval. Approval of the minutes was moved by Vice
20 President Goldberg Rosen and seconded by Commissioner Rosen. The roll was called and the minutes
21 for that meeting were approved by all 5 commissioners.
22

23 CORRESPONDENCE:
24

25 None received.
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27 OLD BUSINESS:
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- 29 1. The current balance In the Trust Account was reported to be approximately \$464,569.
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31 NEW BUSINESS:
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- 33 1. The Local Property Tax Department of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the
34 Treasury has decided that the traditional AFR-A form, used by all annually reassessing
35 districts in NJ, is not going to be acceptable in 2020 due to recent litigation at the NJ Tax
36 Court. All annually reassessing districts have been asked to submit, or re-submit, their
37 applications using the older AFR form. The assessors must modify the manner in which it is
38 completed to meet State specifications. This advice has been sent to all assessors and the
39 applications should be arriving at the tax board offices shortly; the deadline for board
40 approval and submission to the State is August 1st.
41
- 42 2. Tax Rates were being struck as soon as certifications of budgets were received from the
43 DLGS in DCA. To date, 11 had been received, another 10 are expected over the next few
44 weeks, assuming all municipal budgets do receive final approval.
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52 NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

- 53
54 3. Administrator Vance reported that the summaries of deductions for veterans and senior
55 citizens had been completed and were ready for the signatures of the commissioners. It
56 was agreed that these forms would be circulated electronically to all commissioners. He
57 explained that the summary is the basis for the State's reimbursement of all districts for the
58 cost of these deductions, which total over \$3,500,000 in Somerset County.
59
- 60 4. The only educational opportunity remaining on the 2020 calendar as of this date is the
61 NJACTB annual educational conference at Cape May. The administrator indicated that he
62 thought it would be a bad idea to go forward with this week long conference, but that in
63 discussions with other members of the Education Committee, there were some members
64 who still wanted this program to proceed as scheduled. The commissioners were polled on
65 this and all agreed that the administrator should send a letter to the committee expressing
66 their unanimous recommendation that this session be cancelled for this year, due to the
67 ongoing COVID19 pandemic.
68
- 69 5. After a brief review of the final appeals per week report, discussion concerning the
70 upcoming appeal season was opened by the administrator. It remained a possibility that
71 appeals would have to be heard using the internet, probably on the same Zoom platform
72 that we are using for our board meetings.
73
- 74 6. Administrator Vance told the commissioners that the building at 27 Warren Street, where
75 the tax board offices are located, opened for access to employees only on July 13th. The
76 opening of county buildings to be public was expected to occur at some point in the middle
77 of August, but he exact date was not yet determined.
78

79 As the July meeting of the Board of Taxation was held on-line, there was no public portion at the
80 end of the regular meeting, which occurred at 1 PM. The next scheduled meeting of the Board
81 of Taxation will be on July 14th and may again be held on-line, using the Zoom platform, should
82 the COVID 19 pandemic continue to restrict access to the county facilities.