

City of Greenfield
Assessor's Meeting
November 21, 2023

14 Court Square, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

9:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by Chair Ruggeri.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Chair Joseph Ruggeri, Clerk Jim Geisman, Chief Assessor Randall Austin, Assessors' Clerk Devon Magoon, Member of public Chuck Green, Notary Christian LaPlante

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Chief Assessor Randall Austin, it was unanimously;

VOTED: TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE November 7TH, 2023 MEETING MINUTES at 9:38 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Chief Assessor Austin, it was unanimously;

VOTED: TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT AT 9:38 AM.

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Chief Assessor Austin it was unanimously;

VOTED: TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE 3 LIENS AT 9:41 AM.

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Clerk Jim Geisman it was unanimously;

VOTED: TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE MOTOR VEHICLE TAX EXCISE ABATEMENTS FOR \$855.09 AT 9:43 AM.

Board reviewed and accepted 13 Chapterland applications

- 7 in 61A
- 6 in 61B

MOTION: On a motion by Chief Assessor Austin, second by Clerk Jim Geisman, it was unanimously;

VOTED: TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE OF CHAPTERLAND APPLICATIONS AT 9:44 AM.

Discussion on setting of tax rate. Chief Assessor Austin reports that we do not yet have approval from DOR. DOR is asking for some additional questions on values including questions regarding a solar field program.

DOR representative Paula King is corresponding with Chief Assessor Austin working towards approval. Tax rate is tentatively reduced to 20.38.

PUBLIC COMMENT 9:57AM: Chuck Green commented on his research into a residential tax rate exemption 5C and 5O and the benefits of said exemptions for owner occupied vs. non-owner occupied domiciles.

Jim Geisman proposes looking into what other towns have adopted such as Truro.

PUBLIC COMMENT 10:05 AM: Chuck Green commented on small commercial exemption– does this provide greater benefit for the landlord or the business?

Jim Geisman proposes that the BOA should articulate their intentions during the Ways & Means Meeting and provide education on these questions before presenting to City Council.

Chief Assessor Austin suggests resting on the adoptions that the city has historically kept.

Christian LaPlante exits at 10:17 AM.

Diana Schindler Director of Finance enters at 10:17 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT 10:19 AM: Diana Schindler commented that residential exemption adoption recommendations will be presented to council and discussed.

Board reviewed current slides for Classification Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT 10:21 AM: Diana Schindler commented that Greenfield's levy has gone up but the city has seen substantially lower revenues. Also that Ways and Means committee will be looking for additional context during their meeting so it will be helpful to show other town comparisons.

Meeting Room moved to room 204 at 10:28 AM.

MOTION: On a motion by Chief Assessor Austin, second by Chair Ruggeri, it was unanimously;
MOVED: TO RECOMMEND A SINGLE TAX RATE 10:30 AM.

MOTION: On a motion by Clerk Jim Geisman, second by Chair Ruggeri, it was unanimously;
MOVED: TO RECOMMEND NO RESIDENTIAL FACTOR BE ADOPTED AT 10:33 AM.

Discussion: More information should be gathered on implementing a 50 exemption.

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Clerk Jim Geisman it was unanimously;
MOVED: TO RECOMMEND NO SMALL COMMERCIAL EXEMPTION BE ADOPTED AT 10:35 AM.

Discussion: The City Council Meeting to present these recommendations will be held 11/29/23. President of RRG Harald will also be attending to answer any questions. The Board of Assessors is suggested to attend the hearing.

Calendar timeline tabled.

Clerk Jim Geisman is working on building a hardship policy as well as website content.

Future BOA meetings proposed to be 5th, 12th, and 19th of December.

PUBLIC COMMENT 10:43 AM: Diana Schindler proposed future agenda items:

- Discussion of Pilots for Cumberland & Millbrook
- Discussion of RRG 18 month contract coming to an end– the Assessors Office will likely still need to outsource due to small staffing size.

PUBLIC COMMENT 10:52 AM: Chuck Greene commented that Property Questionnaire sent out by Assessors Office has created a negative public response. Suggested sending out a property card or a different approach working toward a more positive response in the future.

Chief Assessor Austin responds that building inspections are delicate matters and often viewed negatively by the public.

Congrats to Chuck Greene on his nomination and joining the BOA.

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Clerk Geisman, it was unanimously;
VOTED: TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT AT 11:02 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Clerk Geisman, it was unanimously;
VOTED: TO OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:02 AM.

Board discussed and accepted exemptions as follows:

- 3 senior
- 4 veteran

MOTION: On a motion by Chair Ruggeri, second by Clerk Geisman, it was unanimously;
VOTED: TO CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:05AM.

MOTION: On a motion by Clerk Jim Geisman, second by Chair Ruggeri it was unanimously;
VOTED: TO ADJOURN AT 11:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Devon Magoon
Assessors Clerk
Greenfield Assessors