

February 19, 2014  
Regular Meeting  
Sussex County Board of Taxation  
Minutes

**Open Public Meetings Act Statement**

The Regular Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Taxation was opened by President John Fierro; with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Act, at 9:16 AM.

Followed by the: **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call** - Mr. George Conway; Present – Mr. Rich Ecke; Absent; Mr. John Fierro; Present

**Approval of Minutes -**

January 15, 2014 – Regular Meeting

President Fierro asked if everybody had an opportunity to review the Minutes from the last regular meeting, and then asked if there were any comments or questions. Commissioner George Conway said he had none, and said he would like to make a Motion to Accept. President Fierro seconded the Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 18, 2013 - Regular Meeting; all in favor.

**Old Business –**

President Fierro said he wanted to let George know, and put on Record; that the Board was asked to speak at a monthly meeting of the Sussex County Association of Realtors. He and Ms. Rockwell, County Tax Administrator, put on a two-hour educational seminar about the whole process of Tax Appeals, and the role of the “Realtor” in that process with “Dos and Don’ts” for Realtors. They had a good response and Rachel over at the offices of the Board is interested in having them back in a couple months; it was quite informative and educational. President Fierro said he is happy to get out there and try to educate people on this process.

**Office Construction -**

Melissa Rockwell said she met with Joe Biuso, and they discussed revisions to the office construction project; they discussed an emergency plan; panic button, and camera installation. Melissa read out

loud, a letter (on file at the County Tax Board Office) from Mr. Biuso, with a recap of the discussion they had during their meeting. Ms. Rockwell went on to read a follow-up letter (on file at the County Tax Board Office) from Mr. John Eskilson, Sussex County Administrator.

President Fierro, Commissioner Conway and Ms. Rockwell discussed briefly some other key concerns and ideas regarding the office construction project. President Fierro asked Ms. Rockwell to respond to the letters accordingly.

### **New Business:**

#### **Taxpayer – Vernon Township:**

Mr. Olsen Filed a Tax Appeal in 2013, and he is interested in filing for 2014. A brief discussion regarding “Trust” (considered a legal entity) followed. It was confirmed that a “Trust” needs to be represented by an attorney; Julian Gorrelli (Attorney General) confirmed that in an email to Ms. Rockwell.

#### **Rollback Hearings:      Township of Green/Penny Holenstein Tax Assessor**

##### **Richard Stein, Esq. Municipal Attorney**

Block 31, Lot 1.08/Oak Run, LLC (represented by Megan Ward, Esq.)

Block 31, Lot 1.09/Ridge Rock, LLC (represented by Megan Ward, Esq.)

The Rollback Hearings for the Township of Green have been recorded, archived, and are available for review at the Sussex County Board of Taxation Office.

### **OPRA Complaint**

The Tax Board is waiting for Mediation; and has responded with dates to the Mediator. To date, the office hasn’t received anything back. Julian Gorrelli (Attorney General) decided to combine all three (3) County Boards (Sussex, Morris and Monmouth) on this issue; more discussion regarding mediation and the OPRA Complaint followed. Richard Stein, Esq. (Green Township Municipal Attorney) and Penny Holenstein (Green Township Tax Assessor) offered some information on the subject.

It was noted that Sussex County is not a “server,” the Tax Board does not store CAMA information, and does not pay for it. Mr. Stein said there are basically three (3) reasons to deny an OPRA Request: 1) The request is too vague or unclear; 2) The requested information is confidential; 3) The requested information does not exist.

### **Rob Spiotti, Esq.**

Ms. Rockwell briefed the Board on a solicitation from Mr. Spiotti, to certain property owners, which contained several errors/inaccuracies).

**Other Business**

The County Tax Board reorganization meeting was discussed and a date was set for the Special Meeting on April 30, 2014.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President John Fierro made a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:03 AM; Commissioner George Conway Seconded the Motion; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marylou Hennighan