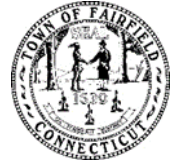


**Board of Assessment Appeals
Fairfield, CT
December 8, 2020 - Minutes**



Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg-pvFc3tNo>

An Organizational Meeting of the Board of Assessment Appeals was held on Tuesday, December 08, 2020 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held virtually via teleconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carol DePietro	Peter Ruppert, Vice Chair
Kathleen Griffin, Secretary	Harold Zawadski, Chair
Alexis Harrison	

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Ross Murray, Assessor; Ronek Patel, John Spolyar, Judith Szablak and Catherine Giff, members appointed for the 2021 revaluation hearings and deliberations

1. Call to Order

Chairman Harold Zawadski called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Election of Officers

Harold Zawadski asked for nominations for Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair.

Alexis Harrison nominated Kathleen Griffin for Secretary. Carol DePietro seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Harold Zawadski nominated Peter Ruppert for Vice Chair. Carol DePietro seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Carol DePietro nominated Harold Zawadski for Chair. Alexis Harrison seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the September 8, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Kathleen Griffin.

Motion seconded by Harold Zawadski.

Motion carried 4:0:1 – Alexis Harrison abstained

4. Welcome to Appointed Members

Harold Zawadski welcomed the four new members appointed to the Board by the Representative Town Meeting in accordance with Section 8.1 of the Code of the Town of Fairfield for the 2021 hearing and decision sessions who briefly introduced themselves:

- a. Ronek Patel, 40 Bronson Road
- b. John L. Spolyar, 110 Brookridge Avenue
- c. Judith M. Szablak, 264 Villa Avenue

- d. Catherine Van Slyck-Giff, 75 Tahmore Court

Chairman Zawadski noted that the appointed members could not vote tonight but would be able to do so once the hearings and deliberations started. He thanked them for agreeing to serve.

5. Discussion with the Assessor

- a. Revaluation Update - Assessor Ross Murray presented the PowerPoint presentation he gave yesterday to the Board of Selectmen on the current revaluation. There was discussion on the revaluation.
- b. Appeal Procedures – Assessor Ross Murray described the appeal process to the Board.
- c. Information re: BAA workshops if known – Assessor Ross Murray said he is hoping to have Shelton Assessor Bill Gaffney put on a BAA workshop either in Fairfield or in Bridgeport in February for any members (new or existing) that wish to attend.
- d. Assessor Ross Murray explained the benefit to his office of the Board electing to hear appeals for commercial, industrial, utility, or apartment properties with an assessed value greater than one million dollars as permitted by CGS sec. 12-111.

6. Vote on Conducting Hearings for Commercial Properties et al

Peter Ruppert made a motion to elect to conduct hearings on appeals for commercial, industrial, utility, or apartment property with an assessed value greater than one million dollars as permitted by CGS sec. 12-111.

Harold Zawadski seconded

Motion carried 5-0-0

7. FOI Letter and Standards of Conduct

Harold Zawadski referred members to the FOI letter that the Town Clerk sent out earlier this month and that he forwarded to members. Kathleen Griffin cautioned members that per FOI, the Board cannot conduct business before the Board over e-mail and that business is to be conducted at meetings that are properly noticed. She noted that it is OK to communicate about scheduling or to distribute information using e-mail. She also noted that members of the same political party can caucus.

8. Adopt 2021 Schedule of Meetings

Harold Zawadski motioned to approve the following calendar for 2021. It was noted that March hearings and/or deliberations that are not needed will be canceled:

- Regular Meeting - February 23 (Tuesday) at 5:00 pm
- Real Property Hearings and/or Deliberations:
Morning Hearings (9 am – 12 pm): March 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 (M-F)
Evening Hearings/Deliberations (4 pm – 9 pm): March 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 (M-Th excluding March 1)
- Motor Vehicle Hearings and Deliberations - September 8 (Wednesday) at 5:00 pm
- Organizational Meeting - December 7 (Tuesday) at 6:00 pm

All meetings and hearings are to be held in Old Town Hall when available or via Teleconference when necessary due to COVID-19.

Peter Ruppert seconded

Motion carried 5-0-0

9. To Transact any Other Business before the Board

There was no additional business.

10. Adjourn

Harold Zawadski made a motion to adjourn. Alexis Harris seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Chairman Zawadski adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Griffin

Secretary

Board of Assessment Appeals