

Kiersten Long

From: Joyce Stockbridge <jastockbridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 4:50 PM
To: Dg_clerk
Subject: Ordinance 23-10-662 First Public Hearing 11-8-2023

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Hi Alekka;

Please copy this email to The Mayor, Assembly members, Manager and file for the meeting to be held tomorrow concerning the first public hearing of Ordinance 23-10-662 to delay the payment of property taxes due to "the high volume of residents affected by appeals and the time needed to resolve all appeals..."

I also filed for an appeal after requesting information that would help me to understand the assessment process and what came out of it. I also stated at that time that since I received my assessment postcard on April 14, 2023, it did not provide me with the time to research and prepare an appeal by May 2, 2023.

After multiple requests for more information to help me arrive at the numbers the assessor's office came up with, and after being told by that office and the Borough Manager that I should appeal to retain my right to be heard I did so on May 2, 2023.

On May 5, 2023 I received an email from the Asst. Assessor in Training that they would review my appeal and contact me with the findings. I was notified on June 2, 2023 stating they had not heard from me with regards to the reason I was appealing. It also stated information was sent to me in April and here was a "quick look" at my property. It told me what was used to value it. If I wanted to move forward the office requested documentation, reasons and estimate of the value of my home.

Finally, with no new information provided me and no help understanding the way the property was valued and assessed, and after being told by 3 people (The Assessor, Assistant Assessor in Training and the Borough Manager) that they had spent enough time with me I informed the Assessor's office that I wouldn't request a revaluation but that I was accepting the assessment in protest.

In effect I felt that I had to take whatever was dished out, mistreated by the Borough with no apologies for the way it all happened. I think the extension to Dec 31, 2023 with no delinquency for payment of those taxes is just one step in a long process needed for the Borough to gain back the respect of the citizenry of Haines. I also believe the Ad Hoc committee discussed at the Nov. 2, 2023 meeting would do a world of good and strongly encourage that to take place as soon as possible.

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