

Property Tax Assessments Ad Hoc Advisory Board
November 30, 2023 5:30 pm

Members: Glenda Gilbert, Stacey Prior, Dan Humphrey, Paul Rogers, Kevin Forster

Others present: Mayor Tom Morphet, Assembly Member Debra Schnabel, CFO Jila Stuart, Clerk Alekka Fullerton, Kim Rosado, Lori Smith, Brenda Josephson, Blythe Carter

On zoom: Don Turner Jr., Donna Lambert, Emma Begley, Roy Josephson, Sheri Loomis

Introductory comments by the Mayor.

Paul Rogers was unanimously appointed as the Chair; Glenda Gilbert will be the vice chair.

The meeting was a free-form brainstorming session discussing ideas and priorities for the committee.

Some questions/ideas raised were:

1. How many houses have not been reassessed in the last 10 years?
2. Parcel Viewer- can it show the date of the most recent assessment (or inspection date)?
3. Assessment notice date- March 1? Code does not specify a date but provides that it must be done prior to 30 days before the BOE hearing (HBC 3.72.080).
4. Make up of BOE. Code currently provides that the BOE shall be the assembly unless the Assembly appoints another board by April 1. Discussion was had regarding the advisability of having a non-political BOE. What would that look like? Would there be specific trades/occupations solicited? How many BOE members? Would there be a rotating pool?
5. Assessment Notice: Content. Can the assessment notices provide more information specific to the property? Is this possible in MARS? Can there be a QR code with the foundational information regarding the latest assessment. The goal is to provide the property owner with the specific information to support the assessment so that the property owner will have more information, earlier, to aid them in the decision to appeal (or not). There was also discussion about including a statement of why we are collecting the taxes. Scott will try to obtain Assessment Notices from other jurisdictions.
6. Assessment Notice: Printing/Mailing. Assessment notices must be mailed by USPS. Discussion revolved around how they were printed and where they were mailed from. Some ideas were printing in house (costly); mailing from Haines (while printed elsewhere); remaining with the current contractor; seeking quotes from a printer in Juneau.

Next Meetings: 12/11/23 at 5:30 pm
 12/13/23 at 5:30 pm
 1/3/24 at 5:30 pm