

City of Columbus
Board of Appeals and Equalization
Alternative Meeting Format
MN Statutes, Section 13D.021
May 7, 2020

The May 7, 2020 meeting of the Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Jesse Preiner at the City Hall. Present were Board Members Shelly Logren (via teleconference), Janet Hegland, Denny Peterson, and Jeff Duraine; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, City Assessor Todd Smith (via teleconference), and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes (via teleconference).

Also in attendance: Anoka County Assessors Alex Guggenberger and Diana Stellmach.

1. Call to Order 7:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Peterson to approve the agenda. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye. Motion carries.

3. Introduction and presentation by Todd Smith and Anoka County Representatives

Todd Smith, the new Columbus City Assessor, joined the meeting to discuss his process for assessing this year. He began working for the City in January of 2020, and previously worked in Anoka County.

He received a statement of valuation questions, many of which have been resolved. The few that are unresolved will be looked at in the next couple of weeks, assuming the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization (LBAE) meeting is reconvened in late May.

Mursko explained that her understanding was that if there were unresolved issues at this meeting, they had to reconvene for another meeting. Anoka County Assessor Alex Guggenberger said that as long as no formal motions are made at this meeting and a decision is made to reconvene, residents could still submit their concerns before the next meeting.

Hegland said that she is concerned that residents have not had enough notice to submit their concerns because tax statements were received only ten days prior to this meeting. Logren echoed these concerns.

Hegland followed up by asking if Smith will be submitting a packet of information for this year's tax statements, like the previous Columbus Assessor had provided? Smith said the previous City Assessor had worked with Anoka County to compile that information, and said that he would be willing to put something together before the meeting is reconvened. There was a consensus that the LBAE would like to receive this information, and reconvene the meeting on 05.26.20.

At this time Mayor Preiner asked if there was anyone on the telephone who would like to add their name to the list of properties to be reviewed, and there was none. Duraine said that he would like to add his name to the list; his address is 18319 Bender Street.

Mursko added that she has not received any written appeals at this time.

Motion by Hegland to reconvene the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting to 05.26.20 at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Duraine. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye. Motion carries.

4. Adjournment of the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting

Motion by Hegland to adjourn to meet again at reconvened meeting of LBAE. Seconded by Duraine. Motion carries. Roll call vote; Peterson - aye; Hegland - aye; Mayor Preiner - aye; Duraine - aye; Logren - aye. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.