

**REAL PROPERTY & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

May 22, 2008

**PRESENT:**

Richard Keaveney, Deputy Chairman  
Ray Staats  
Roy Brown  
Valerie Bertram  
Bart Delaney  
Doug McGivney

**ABSENT:**

Meg Robertson -notified

**PRESS**

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**ALSO PRESENT:**

Missy Noblin-Deputy Clerk  
Suzette Booy-Real Property  
Barbara Beaucage  
Reggie Crowley  
Phil Williams  
Gary Flaherty

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, at 5:30 p.m.

Cold War Veterans Exemption was addressed and S. Booy requested Gary Flaherty, Director – Veteran’s Service Agency discuss same with Committee. Committee consensus was to move forward and it was requested that S. Booy present a Resolution at the June Meeting as well as a poll of other Counties as to how they have. Discussion ensued regarding the need to revisit and review all exemptions at the same time.

County Assessing Grant was addressed and Committee was informed that there will be a Grant workshop with Contractor on June 10<sup>th</sup> at ORPS. The study should be presented to Committee at the June meeting and to the Full Board in July. P. Williams informed the Committee that he was very impressed with the contractor and his expertise.

S. Booy questioned whether a determination has been made regarding placing the Final Assessment Rolls on the County Website. She also questioned whether the elimination of Owner name/ mailing address and Exemption information should be considered. Lengthy discussion ensued and S. Booy will present a custom report sample at the June Meeting.

Committee was informed of the changes to the Middle Class STAR rebate program – Section 1306-b of the Real Property Tax Law. S. Booy stated that it now states that “Where ownership of a parcel that had been eligible for a rebate pursuant to this section changes or an exemption under section 425 of this chapter has been granted or removed, the ASSESSOR shall notify the State Board of the change.” Parcels that have a new STAR exemption, had the STAR exemption change from Basic to Enhanced or from Enhanced to Basic, have had a change in the owner name/ mailing address OR have had a STAR exemption removed will have to be on a transaction file that will be sent to ORPS in July. ORPS is then required to notify the Department of Taxation & Finance who will then notify the owners of these parcels that they MUST apply for the STAR rebate this year. The majority of taxpayers will not have to apply for the rebate this year. Lengthy discussion ensued.

The following conference approvals were presented:

Director to attend the NYS Association of County Real Property Director’s Summer Conference in Saratoga Springs July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at an estimated cost of \$800.

Dorothy Ball and Chrissy DeGraff to attend 6 day course “Assessment Administration”, in East Greenbush on June 18, 19, 20 and June 25, 26, 27. S. Booy stated that a County car will be used. Motion to approve attendance to both conferences made by D. McGivney and seconded by T. Dias, motion carried. P. Williams expressed appreciation for the use of the County car.

Discussion ensued regarding a reduction in the 2007 school tax in the Town of Kinderhook.

Motion to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. made by T. Dias and seconded by B. Delaney, motion carried.

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ROY BROWN-CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD KEAVENEY

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VALARIE BERTRAM

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MEG ROBERTSON

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BART DELANEY

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RAY STAATS

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DOUG MCGIVNEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS