

## Assessor Dept Board Meeting Notes

3/09/2023

- 1) The month of February we were much busier than normal due to the postcards the county sent out about senior exemptions. This was due to legislation passed by the governor at the very end of 2022. This created a lot of confusion since the information on the card was very vague and missing some important eligibility requirements, including primary residency and income limitations. We are hopeful the state will rewrite the legislation to make this process go smoother next year, but at minimum we will make sure there are clearer details as to what Senior exemptions are available and the eligibility requirements.

The postcards at least assisted some of our senior property owners:

- 1) We had 20 eligible STAR applicants that increased from basic to enhanced.
- 2) We have two, plus two pending, new eligible Senior low-income applicants. A number of applicants were denied, due to the income limitations.

**NOTE: New York state set the max limits higher for 2023, raising the "Income Ceiling For 50%" from \$29,000 to \$50,000, and the "Maximum Income for the Exemption" from \$37,400 to \$58,400. Some towns and schools increased their limits for this exemption in 2023. I expect others will in 2024. See attached exemption list for 2023, highlighting the ones that have increased the limits so far. A few seniors that called in after receiving the postcard, were aware of the state increasing these limits, and requested the town to consider increasing them.**

- 2) The new Volunteer Fire and Ambulance exemption and Senior exemption changes passed last month, will both require further modifications and will both go into effect for 2024. We will be addressing these changes when the zoning amendments are done in the near future. We can also address modifications to the Senior exemption, if the town board would like to entertain increasing the senior low-income exemption limits, detailed in my bullet 1 NOTE above.
- 3) We are continuing to process exemption applications and then back to working on permits. Our office is about a month behind on processing permits, due to all of the additional work required as a result of these senior notices sent out. We are still ahead of where we were with permits last year, but I was hoping to be caught up with most by the April 15 deadline, which will not be possible now.
- 4) We have a significant increase in wholly exempt applications this year, including:
  - a) Bontecou land on Shunpike donated to DLC: 248 acres with a total assessed value of \$4,830,399. In 2022 this had an ag exemption of \$1,3million, taxable value \$ 3.5mil
  - b) Perkins land donated to DLC, 25.2 acres with a total assessed value of \$1,231,155.
  - c) Dutchess Day School acquisition of 458 Route 343, 19 acre residential property with a total assessed value of \$861,700, with a forestry exemption of \$219,313 for taxable value of \$642,387, purchased for the headmaster to live in (currently in review by town counsel).

Are PILOTS being entertained for each of these, similar to arrangement we have with Millbrook School.

Future topic: discuss BAR reciprocal agreement