

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING IN RE:
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
APRIL 3, 2012 @ 5:45 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilman Robert Seager
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski
Councilman William Karn
Supervisor William Hasenauer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Deputy Supervisor John Isley

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Supervisor William Hasenauer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Current Assessment Review Board member Mona Lincoln opened the discussion by inquiring about the reasoning behind going to a five member board.

Councilman William Karn stated that all three of the candidates were excellent, well qualified, and from diverse geographic areas of the town. Additionally, he stated the the county recommends a five member board if applicant interest allows. The county feels it's in the interest of the democratic process.

In terms of the cost to the town Councilman Karn reported that the Town Board researched past grievance costs, and minimally a five member board will cost approximately \$110 additional dollars. However, he also reported that a maximum cost of an additional \$800 is possible but unlikely.

Mrs. Lincoln expressed concern that a five member board would not be as efficient due to additional time required to reach a board consensus regarding grievances. She also inquired as to how the current BAR clerk Sue Casey felt about the proposed change. Mrs. Casey was in attendance and stated that she was comfortable with the Town Board's decision as long as her duties went unchanged.

Mrs. Lincoln additionally stated that she was unclear as to why current Board of Assessment Review members were not consulted about the proposed change. Councilman Karn replied that in retrospect the current Assessment Board members should have been included in the process.

Ted Entwistle stated that he felt a three member board was the most efficient option, and that historically the Board has always been three members.

Gerry Ritter added that she could not remember a five member board either, and that she felt a three member board was more efficient as well.

Councilwoman Nancy Kardash stated that at one point during her tenure on the Assessment Board there were five members.

Dave Sweeney, also a current Assessment Review Board member expressed concern regarding a five member board due to lack of applicant interest in the future. A five member board with several vacancies due to lack of applicants will not be an efficient board. Additionally he stated that the probability of having a geographically diverse board in the future would be questionable and that issue could be problematic.

Gerry Ritter inquired as to the status of the Assessment Review Board clerk's position if the Board becomes five members. The Town Board stated that one of the members would assume the duties of the clerk.

Mrs. Ritter stated that she did not feel a voting member of the Board could reasonably handle the clerk's duties as well as give proper attention to the grievances.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Robert Seager and seconded by Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski to adjourn the hearing. Roll call vote:

Councilman Robert Seager- yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski - yes
Councilman William Karn – yes
Supervisor William Hasenauer – yes

There being no further comments the hearing was adjourned at 6:20 pm by Supervisor Hasenauer.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley T. Entwistle
Forestport Town Clerk