

TOWN OF EAST LYME
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, SEPTEMBER 10th, 2022

Members Present: Patrick Hughes, Chairman
Mike Bekech
Gary Cicchiello
Kim Kalajainen
Suzanne Szupiany

FILED

Sept 15, 20 22 AT 9:45 AM/PM
Knox H. Brown ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Also (In Office): Diane Vitagliano, Assessor

1. Call to Order

Chairman Hughes called the Board of Assessment Appeals to order at 9 AM.

2. Motor Vehicle Appeals (2021 Grand List)

1) John McTurk – 252 Whistle town Road – List #170938

Mr. Hughes swore in Mr. McTurk.

Mr. McTurk said that his 2006 Blue Cobra is a kit car and has shown a 400% increase with the \$18,590 assessed value.

Mr. Hughes noted that the value went up.

Mr. Cicchiello asked the basis for his claim.

Mr. McTurk said that it is a depreciating asset and he is looking for a \$14,000 assessed value.

2) David Camassar – 29 Pattagansett Drive – List #50114

Mr. Hughes swore in Mr. Camassar.

Mr. Camassar said that he was representing his son Allen and his 2007 Camry. He said that it is 15 years old, has high mileage (126,000 miles) and needs work. He is looking for the \$4,320 to be reduced to \$2500.

The Board viewed the vehicle.

3) Nancy Field – 6 Plants Dam Road – List #80224

Mr. Hughes swore in Ms. Field.

Ms Field said that she has a 2016 pull behind camper travel trailer.

The original bill of sale was \$8500; it is now assessed at \$14,000. She said that she is looking for a \$5,000 reduction in the assessment. It is a 13' Whitewater 130 by Riverside that is no longer made. It also has damage to it – the pull-down step to get in no longer works; the refrigerator grill in back is missing, the table is not removable so that it can be used outside of the camper and it is porta-potty only.

Mr. Hughes noted the NADA book lists it at \$4100-\$7100.

4) John Spiliotis – 24 Egret Road – List #231268

Mr. Hughes swore in Mr. Spiliotis.

Mr. Spiliotis said that his 2019 Jeep Cherokee Latitude is a 4 cylinder AWD vehicle with very high mileage – 150,000 in October of 2021 and 192,000 now. He had originally leased it and then purchased it. He said that in Edmunds it is \$15,695, he would like to see a reduction of \$5950 due to the high mileage.

5) Chris Hermann – 26 North Main Street – List #100548; List #100549; List #100551 & List #100554

Mr. Hughes swore in Mr. Hermann.

Mr. Hermann said that he is here for four (4) re-built salvaged vehicles:

- **2017 Toyota Prius**

Mr. Hermann said this is a 4-door and is a re-built salvaged vehicle. It is assessed at \$13,940 and he thinks it should be \$10,455. His appeal is due to the salvage title.

- **2015 Camaro**

Mr. Hermann said that this is a re-built V-8, assessed at \$27,870 and he feels that it should be \$20,902 due to the salvage title.

- **2013 Mustang**

Mr. Hermann said that this is also re-built salvage with 136,000 miles on it. It is assessed at \$13,100 and he is looking for a reduction to \$9825.

- **2015 RAM 1500**

Mr. Hermann said that he drove this vehicle here. It is also re-built salvage. It is assessed at \$18,880 which he feels is too high.

The Board viewed the vehicle.

Mr. Hughes said that the Board would deliberate and that he would receive a letter in the mail of the results.

3. Approval of Minutes

- **BAA January 12, 2022 – Special Organizational Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA March 16, 2022 – Special Organizational Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 4, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 5, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 6, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 9, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 11, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 13, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **BAA April 14, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Hughes noted that they could approve the minutes together if they would like to do so.

****MOTION (1)**

Ms. Kalajainen moved to approve the BAA Special and Organizational Meeting Minutes as listed above as presented.

Mr. Bekech seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

4. Decisions/Deliberations

1) John McTurk – 252 Whistletown Road – List #170938

Mr. Bekech said that he would make a motion for no change.

****MOTION (2)**

Mr. Bekech moved that no change be made in the assessment.

Mr. Cicchiello seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2) David Camassar – 29 Pattagansett Drive – List #50114

The assessed value is \$4,320 – Ms. Kalajainen said that she would make a motion that they take no action.

****MOTION (3)**

Ms. Kalajainen moved that no change be made.

Mr. Bekech seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed

3) Nancy Field – 6 Plants Dam Road – List #80224

Ms. Kalajainen said that used retail is \$7150. The assessment here is \$14,000.

Mr. Bekech said that he would make a motion.

****MOTION (4)**

Mr. Bekech moved that they have a \$4,900 FMV and a \$4,900 assessment for this camper based upon the model and condition.

Ms. Szupiany seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

4) John Spiliotis – 24 Egret Road – List #231268

Mr. Bekech said that he would make a motion.

****MOTION (5)**

Mr. Bekech moved to lower the FMV to \$20,000 with a new assessment of \$14,000 based upon mileage.

Mr. Cicchiello seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

5) Chris Hermann – 26 North Main Street – List #100548; List #100549; List #100551 & List #100554

▪ **2017 Toyota Prius**

It was noted that all are salvage vehicles.

****MOTION (6)**

Mr. Bekech moved to reduce the assessed value from \$13,940 to \$11,150.

Mr. Cicchiello seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **2015 Camaro**

****MOTION (7)**

Mr. Bekech moved to reduce the assessed value from \$27,870 to 22,290.

Ms. Szupiany seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **2013 Mustang**

****MOTION (8)**

Mr. Bekech moved to reduce the assessed value on the 2013 Mustang from \$13,100 to \$10,480.

Mr. Cicchiello seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

▪ **2015 RAM 1500**

****MOTION (9)**

Mr. Bekech moved to reduce the assessed value from \$18,888 to \$15,000.

Ms. Kalajainen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

2. Motor Vehicle Appeals (2021 Grand List) Continued

6) Moustapha Ba – 88 Corey Lane – List #40002

Mr. Hughes swore in Mr. Ba.

Mr. Ba said his Toyota Highlander is a 4-door limited platinum. It is not a hybrid. At 50,625 he feels that it is high mileage. It is assessed at \$29,780. He thinks that \$27,000 is reasonable.

The Board viewed the vehicle.

(Note: Mr. Godbout had set up a camera to video tape the proceedings)

7) David Godbout – 15 Cardinal Road – List 390457

Mr. Hughes swore in Mr. Godbout.

Mr. Godbout said that he wanted to call the Assessor as a witness.

Mr. Hughes said that is not this type of hearing and asked him what brings him here today.

Mr. Godbout said that he wants Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bekech to recuse themselves as he does not feel he will have a fair hearing.

Mr. Hughes stated on the record that he can adjudicate this without prejudice.

Mr. Bekech stated on the record that he can adjudicate this without prejudice.

Mr. Godbout said that he contested their statements.

Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Godbout what brings him here and the basis for the appeal.

Mr. Godbout said that he heard them tell a previous person that this affects taxes.

Mr. Hughes stated for the record that Mr. Godbout refuses to provide the information for his appeal. He asked Mr. Godbout for the data on the appeal.

Mr. Godbout asked about the NADA book then proceeded to tell the Board how to use the book claiming the vehicle was not looked at properly and that clean value was used when it is not appropriate.

Ms. Kalajainen said that this is his time to appeal and asked him just what it is that he wants them to consider.

Mr. Godbout said that he feels that the values in the book should not be used as his car is not in clean condition.

Mr. Hughes asked if the car was here so that they can look at it. (2014 Chevy Volt assessed at \$7630)

Mr. Godbout said no adding that it is not relevant as that was October 2021 and no one looked at it then.

Mr. Cicchiello asked if he took pictures of it in October 2021 and has brought them here for them to review.

Mr. Godbout said no, that is not for him to do and it is also irrelevant now. He said that they cannot ask questions.

Mr. Cicchiello said that this is an appeals board and that they can ask him to document the basis for his appeal.

Mr. Godbout said that he uses the bankruptcy courts methods with regard to vehicles. He explained how they use the NADA book and said that he did it that was. He said that his car needed repairs in October 2021 and that the repairs totaled \$1,260 and he subtracted that amount from the assessed value of \$7,630 for a new assessed value of \$6,370.

Mr. Hughes synopsisized that the appeal is based on an incorrect use of the NADA book.

Mr. Godbout asked the Board to issue a letter to the Assessor to use the NADA book correctly because every year he has to come here.

8) Jean Park – 24 Central Ave. – List #200111

Mr. Hughes swore in Ms. Park.

Ms. Park said that she was here for her 2012 Hyundai Tucson GLS 4WD that has high mileage and other issues. The mileage is 230,000 and it has some body damage and some rust on the hood. Based on the high mileage she feels that it should be assessed at \$500. It is assessed at \$7030.

4. Decisions/Deliberations continued

6) Moustapha Ba – 88 Corey Lane – List #40002

****MOTION (10)**

Ms. Kalajainen moved to take no action on any reduction.

Ms. Szupiany seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

7) David Godbout – 15 Cardinal Road – List 390457

Ms. Kalajainen asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Godbout swore under oath that repairs were done but no evidence was presented to that effect nor was the car present for their review.

Mr. Hughes noted that based on his cited repairs that there is a \$1,260 difference.

****MOTION (11)**

Mr. Hughes moved to make a reduction of \$1,260 in the assessment (from \$7630 to \$6370).

Ms. Kalajainen seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

8) Jean Park – 24 Central Ave. – List #200111

Mr. Hughes said that he would make a motion.

****MOTION (12)**

Mr. Hughes moved to reduce the assessment from \$7030 to \$5000.

Ms. Szupiany seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

5. Old Business

There was none.

6. New Business

There was none.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Hall called for a motion to adjourn.

****MOTION (13)**

Mr. Bekech moved to adjourn the Board of Assessment Appeals Meeting at 12 Noon PM.

Mr. Cicchiello seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 0. Motion passed.

Mr. Bekech noted that while the meeting had adjourned that Mr. Godbout's video camera was still up and running and that he finds it offensive.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary Pro-tem