

Minutes of Board of Assessment Appeals Meeting
Meeting Room A of the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center
1 School St. Bethel, CT 06801
September 9, 2023

TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

2023 SEP 11 P 2:57

RECEIVED

Present: Bruce Cornwell, Barbara (Bobbi) Lyon, and Kathleen (Katie) Jordan

Absent: Elizabeth (Izzy) Hirt, Assessor

The meeting was called to order at 9:55AM by Chairman Bruce Cornwell

Old Business:

Bobbi Lyon moved to accept the minutes from the March 29, 2023 meeting. Bruce Cornwell seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved as presented.

New Business:

The following requests for appeal were heard in Meeting Room A after appellants were duly sworn in:

1. **Clarence Haynes - 306 Lexington Blvd.** Mr. Haynes was accompanied by his mother Sylvia Haynes of Brooklyn, New York. She received a notice for paying property tax for her 2015 Hyundai Sonata due to "multiple overnight visits". She was sent two pictures on two different dates of her car in the driveway at 306 Lexington. Mr. Haynes wanted it noted that there was never enough evidence that the car was there for more than 90 days and should never have been charged. He explained that his mother comes to visit and occasionally spends the night, but she has never spent more than 2 nights in Bethel at one time. After deliberation, Bruce Cornwell moved to dismiss the property tax bill. Katie Jordan seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.
2. **Jessica Selvage – 1 Highland Ave.** Ms. Selvage was accompanied by her mother Katherine Nielson. Jessica has a 2008 Nisan Setra that was appraised at \$3,170. Due to the condition of the car and the high mileage (177K) she felt the appraisal should be lower. Katie Jordan went outside with Jessica to view the car and took several pictures. The committee will deliberate on the matter on September 13, 2023.
3. **Jeffrey Davis – 26 Castle Hill Dr.** Mr. Davis has a 2007 Ford cargo van with 158K miles that he believes is appraised too high. He brought in Polaroid pictures showing that the body had a lot of rust including large holes. There is also a problem with the fuel pump. After deliberation, Bruce Cornwell moved to reduce the appraised value from \$7,600 to \$1,000 due to the poor condition. Katie Jordan seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.
4. **David Switala – 5 Taylor Rd.** – Mr. Switala believes the appraisal on 3 cars he owned is too high. The vehicles are all Subaru Crosstreks 2015, 2018, and 2019. They are all salvage vehicles. He recently moved to Bethel from Danbury and went through the appeals process on the cars in Danbury and the assessments were all reduced. He provided copies of that information and will email additional documentation to the Assessor. He has already sold the 2015 for \$3000 and the 2019 for \$8000. The 2015 vehicle was assessed at \$12,150, the 2018 for \$16,210 and the 2019 at \$19,900. The committee will deliberate on the matter on September 13, 2023.

5. **Clara Sarmiento – 26 Huntington Ct.** – Ms. Sarmiento feels the assessment on her 2017 Subaru Impreza is too high at \$12,6640. The mileage on the car is 120K. The committee will deliberate on the matter on September 13, 2023.

6. **Emely Abel-Tatis – 8 Oak Tree Ct.** – Ms. Abel-Tatis believes the assessment on her 2012 VW Tiguan is too high at \$6,700. The car has 213,600 miles on it, needs constant oil filling and the engine light is always on. She provided information from CarMax showing the trade in value is \$730 and the private sale value is \$1770. The committee will deliberate on the matter on September 13, 2023.

There being no further new business, Bruce Cornwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Katy Jordan seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara (Bobbi) Lyon
Secretary, Board of Assessment Appeals