

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

September 13, 2023

TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

2023 SEP 15 A 9:17

RECEIVED

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

Absent: Elizabeth (Izzy) Hirt, Assessor

The meeting was called to order at 5:55PM by Chairman Bruce Cornwell

New Business:

The following requests for appeal were heard in Meeting Room A on Saturday, September 9, 2023 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. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
2. **Jessica Selvage – 1 Highland Ave.** Ms. Selvage was accompanied by her mother Katherine Nielson. Jessica has a 2008 Nissan Sentra 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.
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. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
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.
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.

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.

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

1. **Patricia Ashcroft – 20 Birch Dr.** Ms. Ashcroft has a 2010 Honda Civic with 169K miles that she believes is assessed too high. It was involved in an accident and not repaired. The vehicle is still drivable but has obvious body damage. The car was assessed at \$5,740 and taxed at \$163. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
2. **Yuriy Maklyan and Stephanie Valle – 55 Osborne Hill Rd. Newtown, CT.** Mr. Maklyan received a tax bill from the town of Bethel for a 2019 Ford F350 work truck that is registered in Monroe. A former employee had kept the van at his home in Bethel for a couple of days for a job. The taxes on the truck have been paid in Monroe. Miss Valle provided copies of emails between her and the tax assessor in Monroe and in Bethel. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
3. **John Conkling – 255 Greenwood Ave.** Mr. Conkling had several questions about the process of taxing cars in Connecticut as he recently moved from New York. He has a 2019 Subaru Impreza hatchback with 30K miles that he believes is assessed too high at \$18,550 and taxed at \$471.65. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
4. **Linda Guercio – 23 Katrina Circle.** Ms. Guercio has two vehicles which she believes are assessed too high. The first is a 2018 GMC Terrain with 212K miles assessed at \$16,450 and taxed at \$467.67. The car is used by her daughter for work. The second vehicle is a 2016 Infinity Q50 with 90K miles. It is assessed at \$14,560 and taxed at \$14,560. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
5. **Vasyl Bukatyuk – 8 Turkey Plain Rd.** Mr. Bukatyuk has two vehicles which he believes are assessed too high. The first is a 2020 Mazda CX-5 which was assessed at \$14,500 and taxed at 4413.94. The car was involved in an accident and was repaired. Mr. Bukatyuk seemed to have some confusion regarding if the car was considered “salvaged” or not. It was explained to him that the car would not be considered salvaged as it was not totaled and repaired after the accident. The second vehicle is a 2020 Tesla assessed at \$51,900 and taxed at \$1475.55. The committee will deliberate on the matter.
6. **Vasyl Bukatyuk – 8 Turkey Plain Rd.** Mr. Bukatyuk has two vehicles which he believes are assessed too high. The first is a 2020 Mazda CX-5 which was assessed at \$14,500 and taxed at 4413.94. The car was involved in an accident and was repaired. The second vehicle is a 2020 Tesla assessed at \$51,900 and taxed at \$1475.55. The committee will deliberate on the matter.

There being no further new business, Bruce Cornwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Katy Jordan seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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