

January 22, 2007

The scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Equalization Board was called to order this 22nd day of January, 2007, in the conference room of the Cleveland County Office Building by Chairman Waldo Blanton. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

Waldo Blanton, Chairman
Charles Thompson, Vice-Chairman
Pat Ross, Member
Dorinda Harvey, Secretary

County Assessor Denise Heavner was also present.

After the reading of the minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2006, and there being no additions or corrections, Pat Ross moved that the minutes be approved. Charles Thompson seconded the motion.

The vote was: Waldo Blanton, yes; Charles Thompson, yes; Pat Ross, yes.
Motion carried.

Charles Thompson moved, seconded by Pat Ross, to Elect Waldo Blanton Chairman for 2007.

The vote was: Waldo Blanton, yes; Charles Thompson, yes; Pat Ross, yes.
Motion carried.

Waldo Blanton moved, seconded by Pat Ross, to Elect Charles Thompson Vice-Chairman for 2007.

The vote was: Waldo Blanton, yes; Charles Thompson, yes; Pat Ross, yes.
Motion carried.

Waldo Blanton moved, seconded by Pat Ross, to approve the Notice to Taxpayers.

The vote was: Waldo Blanton, yes; Charles Thompson, yes; Pat Ross, yes.
Motion carried.

Chairman Blanton called for organizational meeting and review of forms and procedures. Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk, stated the form that she sends out to the Tax Payers the Procedure During Equalization Board Meetings will be the same except the address will be changed to 201 S. Jones. Ms. Harvey asked which of the conference rooms the Board wanted to meet in and the Board agreed the Commissioner's Meeting Room would be the best.

Denise Heavner stated that she thinks the Board Members get a bulletin for the Oklahoma Tax Commission that tells about legislative changes. A lot of them this year were specific to certain counties and some things that really didn't pertain to Cleveland County. The only things for Cleveland County there were a couple of manufacturing exemption changes and there is information that we are to keep a confidentiality agreement for whatever is talked about, or for whatever is brought to the Board.

Chairman Blanton had a question about the confidential part because the Equalization Board is a public meeting.

Ms. Heavner stated it was Senate Bill 1084. Ms. Heavner read part of the bulletin "making the confidentiality requirement that currently applies to certain sworn documents", Ms. Heavner stated she had some documents that people put social security numbers on and swear certain things to the Assessor's Office. Those are the only things in her office that are confidential.

Ms. Heavner thinks this means that if the taxpayer gives the Board something about their business the Board can't release it to the public. Ms. Heavner didn't know how this would affect the County Clerk's Office as the documents are usually filed with the protest.

The Board believes it needs to speak to an attorney's about this.

The only other thing that applies to the County Assessor is if a taxpayer wants an informal hearing the taxpayer can request it and the Assessor's Office has to comply.

Ms. Heavner stated the only other thing is the state question that was passed about free-port exemption and the taxpayer now has to file that in a timely manner.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Pat Ross moved that the meeting be adjourned. Charles Thompson seconded the motion.

The vote was: Waldo Blanton, yes; Charles Thompson, yes; Pat Ross, yes.

Motion carried.