

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

RACHAEL EUBANKS STATE TREASURER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE TAX COMMISSION

Okemos Conference Center, Okemos Ballroom 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos, Michigan

And

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Peggy L. Nolde, Chairperson W. Howard Morris, Member STC Mark A. Davidoff, Member STC

David A. Buick, Executive Director LaNiece Densteadt, Recording Secretary

The item numbers referred to in the minutes correspond to the agenda items as numbered.

Chairperson Nolde stated the following: I would like to introduce our new Tax Commissioner Mark Davidoff. Welcome to the State Tax Commission. If you would like to tell us a little bit about yourself before we begin the meeting.

Commissioner Davidoff stated the following: Thank you and I am glad to be here. I am a CPA by trade. I am a retired partner from Deloitte, LLP. I currently serve as the President and CEO of The Fisher Group which is a family office organization in Southfield and a lifelong Michiganian and honored to be here.

It was moved by Morris, supported by Nolde, and approved to adopt the minutes of November 16, 2021, as presented. Commissioner Davidoff abstained from the approval as he was not present for the November 16, 2021 meeting. (Item 1 on agenda)

Public Comment – Agenda Items 3 through 20 Only (Item 2 on agenda):

No member of the public wished to speak regarding agenda items 3-20.

Commissioner Morris stated the following: I would like to extend my congratulations to all the individuals on the 2021 list with special acknowledgement to those achieving the MMAO certification.

Chairperson Nolde stated the following: I as well would like to congratulate everyone. It was a great list and I look forward to seeing the MCAT's moving up and everyone else advance. Thank you for your participation in assessing and best wishes. Always know you can contact the State Tax Commission if you have questions.

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to recognize students who have successfully completed their course work during the 2021 year and have passed the State Tax Commission (STC) examinations with a score of 75% or higher. (Item 3 on agenda)

The STC recognized the following 176 Michigan Certified Assessing Technicians:

Armanda Alvarez Benjamin Albin Khiela Alpers Brian Anklam Ammnuel Ashame Tracy Bagley Chanel Jenkins Baldwin Melissa Bardecki Susan M. Barkley Jason Barra Barbara Battle Mindy Becker Haley Bizek Sarah Behmlander Drew Benson Nicole Bonenfant Terri L. Blake Amanda Bloom John Bowman Raymond Borregard Alexa H. Bowman Ginni Braddy Sandra S. Brewbaker Stanley Bragg, Jr. Brendan Bronson Duane J. Brown Tina M. Brown Zachary Buda Arielle Bullard **Eric Bussis** Trevon Cannon **Beth Canaley** Grace Catlin Joanna Coddington Nicole Collins Matt Courser Amy Crank Wyatt Crawford Marybeth Dame Nicole Davidson Jennifer DeLorge Damon DeShazer Amber Dickerson-Janssens Max DeVoogd Tabatha M. Diem Gerald DePeitro Rocco DiPonio William Edwards Jacquelyn Echols Joseph G. Ferrari Loren Ferreria Tiffany Franklin Falina Freeman Joseph Fuoco Kashara German Ann Golden John A. (Jack) Gosselin Sharon D. Gresly Nancy L. Griwicki

Ruth Grulke Kevin M. Hicks Lori Hogston Kimberly Jackson Karrie Johnson Matt Kirwin Grace Kowalski Eric Kubsch Katlyn Laurel Mona Littlejohn Angelica Lugo April MacKinnon

Kristy Doe Milan Eldred Jean-Pierre Fowler Rodney E. Fuller Mary Catherine Godvin John R. Gosselin Amanda Grover Rachel L. Hager Stephanie Hodges Danielle Hughes Michelle Jenny Keisha Johnson Joshua Knepper BethAnn Kozicki Joshua LaBrenz Brian Lewandowski **Brennan Lowry** Kristy Lundewall lla Mae Mahon

William Grubb

Tina Hoenicke

Janvier Irafasha

Jacob Johnson Jessica Kidder

Shawn Knoll Linda Koziol

Tobi G. Lake

Emily Linden

Sheryl Lucas

Leatrice Lyons

Karen Haldeman

Sarah Masserant Sara McLeery Sabrina McGirr Christopher Mihelich Antonio Mitchell Krys Myers Nathanial Olson Morgan Pankiewicz Kristina Pillette Alexander Renius Darren Rockcole

Jeanette Schrameck

Carrie Ross

Shelbi Sear Ali Shebley Lisa Smith Sheri Sosnowski Erin Stratton **Kuwana Thomas** Kathleen Trischler Hillary Venier

Shawna S. Walraven James Weiland **Timothy Wicklund**

Alex Wolff

Kelly Mazurkiewicz Angie McCann Michelle McCraw Tracie McCune Andrea McKeage Stacie McNees Trina Milburn **Daniel Mills** Maria Muhammad **Heather Muzzy** Bernadette Okonkowski Michael Nevala

Katelyn Olzewski Terry Patterson Patricia Plont Alec Rinaldi Olivia Romano Abraham Schafer Alex Z. Schultz-Spradlin

Chelsey Seif Nicholas Siedlecki Stacy Smith

Caitlin Stone-Webber Moonmoon Sultanta

Jack Todd

Sadock A. Truman, Jr.

Victor Verpooten

Francine Washington-Powell Linda Lou Wernette Amber Wiersma

Quameise Otis **Kevin Peters** Stephen Prybylski Jacqueline Robinson Natasha Rosebush Monica Schafer Lindsay Scott Daniel Selman Ashley Simmons **Brad Solomon** Michele Story Annika Taylor Echo Torrez

Sherry Veal Turner Sean Walker Morgan Webb **Bradley White** Dale G. Witt

The STC recognized the following 94 Michigan Certified Assessing Officers:

Nolan J. Arbour Sarah N. Behmlander Mary Joe Calkins Sara Capa

Robin Chrisoffersen Kelsy N. Cox

Eric M. David Willie Donwell Dale Drerup Isaac D. Entz Heidi L. Gartley Dylan Grubaugh LaMeka Harrison Madeline M. Howell William Joseph

Tom Kellogg Stephen King Carol LaClair Mona Littlejohn Laura Bayley Ralph Bemis Bonny S. Campbell Peter Casler

KC Clegg Jessica Crawford **Brent Desiarlais** Kara Dougherty KalaMae M. Dunn Carl K. Fowler, Jr. Shelly Gentner Rodney Haddix

Carla L. Hill Janice T. Inman Kevin Kalinec

Steen R. Kelly Eric R. Kubsch Stephanie LaTour Mark Lorkowski

Julie A. Beeker Frances Burton Cheneta L. Campbell

Dan Cervi

Thomas Clemens, III

Darrin Darga Erica A. Dethloff Michael Dougherty Ryan Ebright Beth Friend

Paula S. Goodwin

Jen Harris

Matthew Hoevenaar

Roxana Johnson-DePalma

Brenton Keech Cheryl King Brittany Kuhnle Kyle Liberati

Morgan R. Loucks

Tyler Malek **Anthony Markwort** Monica McMichael

Lisa Minto

Seth A. O'Loughlin Katherine Ralston Charles Russell, Jr. Sarah Shannon Samantha Sobaski Mikyla L. Sweet Jene L. Urban Howard C. Whaley

Kristyn Malkowski Sheila Martin Dawn Meeker Richard Mobley Nathanial Olson Craig Reiter Miles Schmidt Parker Skeel John Sorovetz Cody T. Toomey Christine Vandenberg James Whitten

Kayla M. Marchington Benjamin McCleery Jenelle Michaels Kelli Navarro Ellen Papineau Dan Rimpel, Jr. Heather Schroeder **Andrew Smith** Gabrielle R. Story Christina Tyynismaa Charles Webster Roy A. Wicht

Sara Zayas

The STC recognized the following 38 Michigan Advanced Assessing Officers:

Kathleen Angelo Joseph Clark Harley Day Benjamin Griffin Heather Hoffman Hannah Marie Jacques

Angie Kurmas Richard McGrew Cherry Mesa Jacqueline Solomon

Katie VanEenanaam-Carpenter John Vaseau

Alexandria Wilkinson

Deborah Ballard Amy Clous

Jaikob Djerf Judy Herald Alvin Horhn Stephen Jones Chloe Macomber

Jessica McLean Jennie Miller Michele Tabor Joseph VanHassel Rachel Wandrie

Chris Boggus John Cunningham Mildred Gasperich Tony Hobyak Hannah Jackson Janice Ketcham **Dorothy Manley** Nicole Merlo Thad Pepper Kelly Thueme

Robert VanMunster **Barry Wauldron**

The STC recognized the following 7 Michigan Master Assessing Officers:

John Baumann Dawn M. Burek

Kayla M. Ripley

Keegan Bengel Joshua P. Morgan Allan J. Berg

Shalice R. Northrop

The Commission received an update from staff on the Assessor Education Programs and accepted the following summary: (Item 4 on agenda)

Michigan Certified Assessing Technician (MCAT) Program:

The MCAT Program was offered online by both outside organizations and the State at various times throughout 2021. The program will be offered through the State six times in 2022. Staff will continue to update the course materials and will reevaluate program testing protocols for 2022.

Michigan Certified Assessing Officer (MCAO) Program:

MCAO Programs were offered as a 6-month online program. The January MCAO Programs were offered in Lansing, Marquette and Novi in 2021. A May Program successfully took place in Big Rapids. June Programs were again offered in Lansing, Marquette and Novi. The application period for the January 2022 classes in Lansing, Marquette and Novi was just completed with eight-five applicants. Accommodations were made for eighty-one of the eighty-five applicants. Staff will continue to update the course materials and will reevaluate program testing protocols for 2022.

Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer (MAAO) Program:

The MAAO one year online/lecture hybrid was offered in April and October of 2021. There were sixteen self-paced courses offered in 2021, including Principles of Appraising, Statistics and Basic Income courses in the Upper Peninsula. The MAAO Program will be offered both in April and October of 2022 along with the self-paced courses. Staff will continue to update the course materials and will reevaluate program testing protocols for 2022.

Michigan Master Assessing Officer (MMAO) Program:

The MMAO Program is a comprehensive one-year program. The program begins with four six-week classes offered in an online/hybrid format: Advanced Market, Advanced Income, Advanced Depreciation & Highest and Best Use and Final Reconciliation. Students have their first part of the two-part final exam at the end of 24 weeks and write an appraisal report. Staff will continue to update the course materials and will reevaluate program testing protocols for 2022.

The Commission received an update from staff on the CAMA Data Standards. It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the following recommendations of the CAMA Data Standards Committee: (Item 5 on agenda)

- Adopt the revised State Tax Commission CAMA Data Standards dated December 14, 2021. The items that were revised include the Codes for Taxable Status, the Study Type Codes for use with forms L-4018R and L-4018P, Define Terms of Sale, and Sales Verification.
- 2. Adopt the Standards Regarding Factors, Forms, Fractions, Multipliers, Ratios, Rates and Rounding.
- 3. Maintain the CAMA Data Standards Committee consisting of representation from the assessing, equalization, and CAMA vendor community, including the chairs of the standards committees of the Michigan Assessors Association and Michigan Association of Equalization Directors.
- 4. Direct the Property Services Division staff to work with the Committee to develop additional educational opportunities for 2022.
- 5. Direct the Committee to continue research in coordination with the Michigan Assessors Association and the Michigan Association of Equalization Directors into the development of new standards for possible future implementation for assessor change reasons, adjustment change reasons, and use codes.

- 6. Direct the Committee to conduct an annual review of the CAMA Data Standards, implementation, and education plan, receiving input and recommendation from the assessing/equalization community for changes or enhancements that will ensure that the standards continue to provide best practices that result in uniform and equitable assessment administration across the State.
- 7. Direct the Committee to provide the State Tax Commission with the results of the annual review with any recommended changes to the CAMA Data Standards.

The Commission received an update from staff on the Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements and accepted the following summary: (Item 6 on agenda)

- 1. Of the 314 local units reviewed, 48% had perfect reviews in the assessment roll analysis portion. In late 2020, there were several adjustments made to the Poverty Guidelines statute. Local units were required to adjust their guidelines and policies before the 2021 March Board of Review. This late change caused several units to fail the Poverty Guidelines portion of the review. The percentage of perfect reviews would have been 72% if not for Poverty Guideline failures.
- 2. The informational section, which does not require a corrective action plan from the local unit, indicated that a large majority of the units matched the local unit 4022 to the county, had proper procedures for exemptions, and were properly completing Form 4142 for PRE interest. However, 61% of the units did not provide Land Value Maps created to previous State Tax Commission specifications.
- 3. The 2021 reviews indicated passing rate improvements in most categories except for a slight decrease in ECF Determinations and a decrease in Poverty Guideline failures which are tied to the Exemption Processed failures:
 - ECF Determinations decreased from 94% to 92%
 - Land Value Determinations improved from 88% to 89%
 - Overrides and Flat Land Values improved from 91% to 96%
 - Personal Property Canvass remained at 100%
 - Small Taxpayer Exemption processing improved from 87% to 93%
 - Poverty Guidelines dropped from 93% to 68%
 - Poverty Asset Test improved from 89% to 93%
 - Exemptions Processed decreased from 89% to 79%
 - Board of Review Authority improved from 94% to 98%.
 - Property Transfer Affidavit Penalty improved from 94% to 95%
- 4. Seventy-five follow up reviews were conducted on local units who still had issues remaining from previous years audits. Of those, 28 will require another follow up review in 2022.
- 5. We anticipate a total of about 58 local units will require a follow up review in 2022. Additionally, we have 16 counties scheduled for a regular AMAR review in 2022.
- 6. In 2021, the STC returned assessment rolls to 12 units and assumed the assessment roll in seven units.
- 7. Staff has started to develop new audit requirements resulting from the "Assessing Reform" legislation. The requirements of the legislation will take effect in 2022 and the new audit will be first implemented in 2023. We will continue to work with stakeholders in the development of the audit along with the local unit requirements.

During 2022, we will also continue our outreach to those units going through the current AMAR review as well as beginning to provide education on the new audit that will be implemented in 2023.

The Commission accepted to acknowledge those local units who have received a perfect score on the Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR) Review by providing a Certificate of Achievement to the following: (Item 7 on agenda)

Antrim County

Chestonia Township
Jordan Township
Mancelona Township
Star Township

Branch County

Algansee Township
Bronson Township
California Township
Quincy Township
Union Township

Jackson County

Concord Township
Sandstone Township
Waterloo Township

Kalkaska County

Rapid River Township

Macomb County

Armada Township **Bruce Township** City of Center Line Chesterfield Township Clinton Township City of East Pointe City of Fraser Harrison Township Lenox Township City of Mount Clemens City of New Baltimore Ray Township Richmond Township City of Roseville City of St. Clair Shores City of Sterling Heights City of Utica City of Warren

Oscoda County

Elmer Township

Wayne County

City of Allen Park City of Belleville Brownstown Township Canton Charter Township City of Dearborn Heights City of Dearborn City of Flat Rock City of Garden City City of Grosse Pointe Farms City of Grosse Pointe City of Grosse Pointe Park City of Grosse Pointe Shores City of Grosse Pointe Woods City of Hamtramck City of Harper Woods City of Highland Park City of Inkster City of Lincoln Park

City of Livonia
City of Northville
City of Plymouth
City of River Rouge
City of Romulus
Sumpter Township
Van Buren Township
City of Westland

City of Melvindale Plymouth Township Redford Township City of Riverview City of Southgate City of Taylor City of Wayne

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the revised Bulletin 13 of 2021 Property Tax and Equalization Calendar for 2022. (Item 8 on agenda)

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the revised Board of Review Questions and Answers. (Item 9 on agenda)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the STC Policy on Virtual Board of Review Training Requirements. (Item 10 on agenda)

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the memorandum on Guidance Regarding Valuation and Assessment of Photovoltaic (Solar) Electric Generation Systems. (Item 11 on agenda)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the Wind Turbine Reporting Form 4565 – 2022 Wind Energy System Report. (item 12 on agenda)

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the 2022 Pipeline Economic Factors and direct staff to report back at the February 15, 2022, meeting with a recommendation for a work group that will review pipeline tables and factors. (Item 13 on agenda)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the Legislative Reports for Commercial Rehabilitation Act, Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act and Commercial Redevelopment Act for the 2020 and 2021 Tax Years. (Item 14 on agenda)

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the official order to allow the Stipulation and Dismissal and MOAHR Order of Dismissal be accepted and entered in which Roy Kissinger shall surrender his assessor certification #R-5843 on or before January 13, 2022. Mr. Kissinger shall not act as the assessor of record for any local unit of government upon surrender of his assessor's certification. (Item 15 on agenda)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendation regarding the City of Livonia, Wayne County's request for approval of percentage reductions in taxable value for the poverty exemption under MCL 211.7u. (Item 16 on agenda)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendation on the Recertifications and New Certifications of Computerized Tax Rolls for the following: (Item 17 on agenda)

These certifications will expire on May 1, 2024.

Recertifications:

Ontonagon County

Interior Township

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendation on the Recertifications and New Certifications of Computerized Assessment Rolls for the following: (Item 18 on agenda)

These certifications will expire on May 1, 2024.

New Certifications:

Antrim County

Elk Rapids Kearney Township

Livingston County

Hamburg Township

Recertifications:

Houghton County

Torch Lake Township

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendations on the **Special Items Exemptions Agenda**. (Item 19 on agenda) (<u>Special Items Exemptions Agenda Link</u>)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendations on the **Exemptions Agenda**. (Item 20 on agenda) (<u>Exemptions Agenda Link</u>)

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the MCL 211.154 petitions on the **Concurrence Agenda**. (Item 21 on agenda) (<u>Concurrence Agenda Link</u>)

At 9:24 a.m. the Commission approved to go into recess to await the 9:30 a.m. scheduled MCL 211.154 Non-Concurrence Agenda hearings.

The Commission came back into session at 9:30 a.m. for their scheduled MCL 211.154 Non-Concurrence Agenda hearings and the remaining items on their agenda.

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendations on the MCL 211.154 **Special Items Agenda**. (Item 22 on agenda) (<u>Special Items Agenda Link</u>)

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the staff recommendations on the MCL 211.154 **Non-Concurrence Agenda**. (Item 23 on agenda) (Non-Concurrence Agenda Link)

Exemption Hearings (Item 24 on agenda):

No requests were received for Administrative Hearings Regarding Air and Water Pollution Control Exemptions.

Public Comment (Item 25 on agenda):

No member of the public wished to speak at public comment.

Other Items for Discussion (Item 26 on agenda):

Executive Director Buick stated the following: This week as part of the Equalization process, we were made aware that some irregularities for property cards in Menominee County and a variety of local units which are causing some issues for the Equalization Director. Staff are working on what I believe is a systemic issue throughout some of the local units and we need to take a deeper dive into looking at the record cards and what is actually recorded on the record cards and what are the improvements on the parcels. We found more than we are comfortable with where parcels have improvements, and they are not recorded on the record card. Staff are in the process right now of gathering the databases from all the assessors in the County to look at the issues and compare it with what the Equalization Director has done. I am making a recommendation for the Commission to order a special AMAR review of Menominee County. When the AMAR review is performed now, we are not doing the record card review as we had in the first round. In this round of AMAR reviews all of the local units passed in Menominee County, but we didn't do a record card review. Based on what we are seeing in the record cards I recommend we do a special AMAR in Menominee County with a record card review.

It was moved by Davidoff, supported by Morris, and unanimously approved to adopt the recommendation of Executive Director Buick and order a special AMAR in Menominee County with a record card review and report back to the Commission of the findings.

Executive Director Buick stated the following: It is that time of year the Legislature is winding down and I know there are a couple of bills that are potentially going to be passed out today and sent to the Governor for approval. With that in mind I am going to request that you give staff approval to issue interim guidance between now and your February meeting. If there is any legislation that passes that requires changes just in forms or guidance before your next meeting in February. Otherwise, we would have to bring everybody back for a meeting at the beginning of January. If you give us permission to do the interim guidance and I will bring it to you at your February meeting for approval.

Chairperson Nolde stated the following: I support the State Tax Commission staff to handle the interim guidance until we come back in session in February to act. Due to the timing with everything going on we appreciate you doing that part.

Executive Director Buick stated the following: My understanding is that they are going to meet today. I know the Senate has three days scheduled. I heard the House is just going to meet today. We may know early tomorrow morning what is going to happen.

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adopt the recommendation of Executive Director Buick to allow staff to issue interim guidance that requires changes in forms or guidance before the next Commission meeting in February.

The February 15, 2022, Commission meeting is scheduled to take place at the Okemos Conference Center in the Okemos A & B, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. In order to limit the spread of COVID-19, the meeting will also be available virtually via Microsoft Teams. The agenda along with a video and audio link to the virtual meeting will be posted on the State Tax Commission's website at www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission one week prior to the meeting.

It was moved by Morris, supported by Davidoff, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting of the State Tax Commission at 9:40 am.

DATE TYPED: December 15, 2021

DATE APPROVED: February 15, 2022

Peggy L. Nolde, Chairperson State Tax Commission

W. Howard Morris, Member State Tax Commission

Mark A. Davidoff, Member

State Tax Commission

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