



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association,  
Petitioner,

MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL

v

MOAHR Docket No. 20-001899

Lincoln Township,  
Respondent.

Presiding Judge  
Steven M Bieda

### **SUMMARY OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

### **SCHEDULING ORDER**

### **CONSOLIDATION OF CASES 20-001899, 20-001907, 20-001909 and 20-001910**

### **NOTICE OF VIDEO CONFERENCE HEARING**

A Prehearing Conference on this matter was originally held on August 19, 2021, but prior to a Scheduling Order being issued, it was necessary to adjust the dates, so a Status Conference was held on September 22, 2021. Paul Blanco appeared on behalf of Petitioner. Tara Hovey appeared on behalf of Respondent.

In the course of scheduling, the Tribunal found that the Docket Numbers 20-001899, 20-001907, 20-001909 and 20-001910 present substantial and controlling common questions of fact or law.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the four cases present common questions of fact and law and the parties in each of the cases are the same. As such, the Tribunal finds that consolidation of the subject cases is appropriate and will result in the efficient administration of justice. Therefore, all future pleadings and documents filed in these files shall refer to the consolidated case as MOAHR Docket No. 20-001899.

A scheduling order has been established and a video conference hearing, held via Microsoft Teams, has been set for:

This is an important legal document. Please have someone translate the document.

Este es un documento legal importante. Por favor, haga traducir este documento.

এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি দলিল, অনুগ্রহ করে কেউ দলিলটিকে অনুবাদ করুন।

هذا هو وثيقة قانونية هامة يرجى لديك شخص تترجم الوثيقة.

Ito ay isang mahalagang legal na dokumento. Mangyari lamang na magkaroon ng isang tao isalin ang dokumento.

<sup>1</sup> See R 792.10118.

HEARING DATE:	January 19, 20, 21, 2022
HEARING TIME:	9:00 a.m.
TEAMS HEARING LINK:	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> +1 248-509-0316,,785143635# United States, Pontiac Phone Conference ID: 785 143 635#
PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE:	<a href="https://bit.ly/34fBXnN">https://bit.ly/34fBXnN</a>

This hearing is open to the public and this notice is provided under the Open Meetings Act. Any participant in the hearing or member of the public wishing to attend this hearing must click on the link above to gain access to the hearing.

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE SUMMARY**

I. VALUATION INFORMATION:

A. The true cash value (TCV), assessed value (AV), and taxable value (TV) for each parcel and tax year at issue as established by the Board of Review:

2020 Tax Year

Parcel Number	TCV	AV	TV
18-010-026-200-01	\$401,400	\$200,700	\$200,700
18-010-026-100-09	\$164,600	\$82,300	\$73,682
18-010-035-100-02	\$130,400	\$65,200	\$65,200
18-010-034-200-04	\$10,600	\$5,400	\$5,300
18-010-027-400-01	\$650,200	\$325,100	\$325,100

B. The parties' contentions of TCV, state equalized value (SEV), and TV for each parcel and tax year at issue: Respondent contends that the value of each parcel is as stated by the Board of Review. Petitioner contends that all five parcels are essentially worthless and have no market value due to recorded restrictions in the chain of title that impair both its use and marketability.

C. Amounts in dispute for the tax years at issue:

2020 Tax Year

Year	SEV	TV
18-010-026-200-01	\$200,700	\$200,700
18-010-026-100-09	\$82,300	\$73,682

18-010-035-100-02	\$65,200	\$65,200
18-010-034-200-04	\$5,400	\$5,300
18-010-027-400-01	\$325,100	\$325,100

II. TAX INFORMATION

The property's taxes have been paid for the tax year at issue.

III. FACTUAL STATEMENT OF CLAIMS:

A. Classification of property:

Parcel Number	Classification
18-010-026-200-01	Commercial
18-010-026-100-09	Commercial
18-010-035-100-02	Residential Improved
18-010-034-200-04	Residential Vacant
18-010-027-400-01	Commercial Improved

B. Highest and best use ("H&BU") for the tax years at issue: present use.

C. The properties' TCV and TV are at issue for each tax year under appeal.

D. Petitioner's claims or counterclaims: All five parcels have zero or nominal market value due to the recorded deed encumbrances that limit the use of the property to the homeowner association.

E. Respondent's claims or counterclaims: Values calculated by the assessor are correct. Some factual issues to be litigated include whether omitted land and buildings should be included on the property records.

IV. PENDING MOTIONS OR DISCOVERY:

A. Motions: None pending at this time.

B. Discovery: Discovery is closed unless otherwise stated below.

V. VIDEO CONFERENCE HEARING INFORMATION

The parties and the Tribunal have determined the above-captioned case shall be conducted via video conference.

A link to the **[MOAHR MTT Guide for Participants for the Conducting of Entire Tribunal Hearings as Video Conference Proceedings](#)** is provided above. Participants are encouraged to review this Guide prior to hearing and are **required** to comply with

the requirements of the Guide, as said requirements will facilitate the conducting of the scheduled hearing.

### SCHEDULING ORDER

- I. December 3, 2021 is the deadline to file any dispositive motions.
- II. December 21, 2021 is the final date to file and serve upon the opposing party(ies) and the Tribunal a final exhibit list and to furnish the opposing party(ies) with a copy of each exhibit. **The parties must use the form prescribed by the Tribunal.** An exhibit will not be admitted into evidence unless the exhibit is disclosed and furnished in accordance with this Order (even though admissible) except upon a finding of good cause by the Tribunal.
- III. January 12, 2022 is the date for Petitioner to notify the Tribunal in writing of the name and telephone number of the court reporter retained by the parties to transcribe the hearing.

Failure to comply with this Order may result in the dismissal of the case or the conducting of a show cause or default hearing, as provided by TTR 231.<sup>2</sup>

Date Entered: October 1, 2021

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>2</sup> See also MCL 205.732.

### HEARING INFORMATION – PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** An impartial hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Michigan Administrative Hearing Rules (R 792.10101-R 792.11289) and the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act, MCL 24.201 *et seq.* The Michigan Rules of Evidence and the Michigan Court Rules may be applicable. A party is expected to exercise proper respect and courtesy toward other parties, witnesses and administrative law judges, which includes attending the hearing on time, silencing cell phones, and dressing in appropriate clothing for in-person hearings.

**REPRESENTATION:** A party may be represented by an attorney or other authorized representative of the party's own choosing and at the party's own expense. The Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules does not recommend or appoint attorneys.

**WITNESSES:** Parties may present witnesses, if any, identified in the Prehearing Statements, to testify under oath or affirmation at the hearing, subject to cross-examination by the opposing party, and questions by the administrative law judge.

**EXHIBITS:** The parties shall submit exhibits pursuant to the Guide for Participants.

**COURT REPORTER:** The parties shall not only provide a court reporter to transcribe the hearing but shall also provide an electronic copy of the hearing transcript to the Tribunal by e-mailing it to [taxtrib@michigan.gov](mailto:taxtrib@michigan.gov). The costs attributable to the court reporter shall be shared equally by the parties. If the parties fail to pay the costs of the transcript to the court report prior to the submission of the transcript to the Tribunal, the court reporter may report this to the Tribunal with the submission of the transcript. As a result, the party or parties who failed to pay the costs associated with the transcript may be held in default.<sup>3</sup>

**WITHDRAWAL:** If Petitioner no longer wants to continue with the appeal, Petitioner may submit a written request to withdraw the case. Respondent must concur with the withdrawal. The request must be submitted to the Tribunal and served on Respondent at least 14 days before the hearing. Respondent may file a concurrence or objection to the request within 7 days of the service of the request on that party. If Respondent does not timely submit a concurrence or objection to the request will be deemed to be a concurrence to the request. If the request is granted, the case will be dismissed. If a request is not granted or the Tribunal has not notified you that it has been granted, you are required to attend the hearing.

**SETTLEMENT:** Parties may submit a written agreement settling a case (i.e., stipulation). The stipulation must be on a form made available by the tribunal or shall be in a written form that is in substantial compliance with the tribunal's form and be signed by the parties' attorneys or authorized representatives, if they have attorneys or authorized representatives, or by the parties, if they do not have attorneys or authorized representatives. There is a \$50 fee for the filing of the stipulation. If the stipulation with appropriate filing fee is received by the Tribunal or the parties email a copy of the signed stipulation to the Tribunal by 4:30 p.m. on the business day immediately preceding the day of the scheduled hearing, the hearing may be adjourned. Parties that email a copy of a signed stipulation to the Tribunal for purposes of adjourning a hearing are also required to submit the original signed stipulation with appropriate filing fee. The

---

<sup>3</sup> See TTR 321.

stipulation, once submitted, will be reviewed and, if accepted, the Tribunal will issue a consent judgment.

**FAILURE TO APPEAR:** The failure of a party to timely appear or otherwise participate in a hearing will result in adjournment of the hearing and the holding of that party in default. The defaulted party will be given an opportunity to show good cause for the failure to appear. Failure to respond or show good cause may result in dismissal of the case or the conducting of a default hearing.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** All hearings are conducted in a barrier-free location in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. An individual requiring reasonable accommodation for effective participation in a hearing, including accessible documentation such as braille, large print, electronic or audio reader, should contact the MOAHR by telephone at (517) 335-9760, or complete and submit an accommodation request form at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Disability\\_Accommodation\\_FORM\\_v1\\_2\\_464017\\_7.d oc](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Disability_Accommodation_FORM_v1_2_464017_7.d oc) within five (5) days of receipt of the Notice of Hearing to ensure availability of accommodation.

Hearing participants and observing members of the public who need assistance with speech or hearing may also participate in a telephonic or virtual hearing by dialing 7-1-1 and using the Michigan Relay service. More information about this service may be found at [https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93308\\_93325\\_93425\\_94040\\_94041---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93308_93325_93425_94040_94041---,00.html).

**PRIVACY OF INFORMATION:** In order to conduct a comprehensive and fair hearing, a party's private or confidential information, such as health or financial information, may be disclosed to the Tribunal and other parties and their attorneys or representatives. The MOAHR will use the private information solely for purposes related to the hearings process. A party may file a motion to request that a public hearing be closed in part or file a motion for protective order to deem certain information private and confidential in order to afford that information special protection.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Michigan Tax Tribunal**  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30232, Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: (517) 335-9760  
E-Mail: [taxtrib@michigan.gov](mailto:taxtrib@michigan.gov)  
Website: [www.michigan.gov/taxtrib](http://www.michigan.gov/taxtrib)  
E-Filing: <https://eFiling.apps.lara.state.mi.us>  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., our office is closed from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.