



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

Gatehouse Media Michigan Holdings,
Petitioner,

MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL

v

MOAHR Docket No. 21-001538

City of Allegan,
Respondent.

Presiding Judge
Peter M. Kopke

SUMMARY OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

SCHEDULING ORDER

NOTICE OF VIDEO CONFERENCE HEARING

**ORDER PRECLUDING PETITIONER FROM OFFERING
VALUATION DISCLOSURE FOR ADMISSION OR WITNESSES TO TESTIFY**

ORDER HOLDING PETITIONER IN DEFAULT

A Prehearing Conference on this matter was held on July 26, 2022. Henry LaCap, Esq. failed to appear on behalf of Petitioner and, as such, Petitioner is subject to default. Ryan M. Shannon, Esq. appeared by telephone on behalf of Respondent. A scheduling order has been established and a video conference hearing, via **Microsoft Teams**, has been set for:

HEARING DATE:	August 30, 2022
HEARING TIME:	9:00 a.m.
TEAMS HEARING LINK:	Click here to join the meeting +1 248-509-0316 ., 343334611# United States, Pontiac Phone Conference ID: 343 334 611#
PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE:	https://bit.ly/3gWLDJJ

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.

MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL · 611 W. OTTAWA ST., LANSING, MI 48933 · 517-335-9760
PO BOX 30232, LANSING, MI 48909 · Other Carriers: 2407 N GRAND RIVER AVE, LANSING, MI 48906

This hearing is open to the public and this notice is provided under the Open Meetings Act. Any participant or member of the public wishing to attend this hearing **must** click on the “Teams Hearing Link” provided above to gain access to the hearing.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE SUMMARY

I. SHOW CAUSE HEARING:

- A. The prehearing conference commenced as a Show Cause Hearing given the Petitioner’s failure to file their valuation disclosure and prehearing statement.¹
- B. Petitioner failed to appear for the Prehearing Conference and, as such, no explanation was provided to indicate why they failed to file their valuation disclosure and prehearing statement.
- C. The Tribunal finds that Petitioner has not shown good cause to justify the offering of a valuation disclosure for admission or witnesses to testify.

Based on the above, Petitioner is **not** permitted to offer a valuation disclosure for admission or witnesses to testify with the exception of rebuttal witnesses only. Any rebuttal witness offered by Petitioner will, however, be **precluded** from testifying as to value **given** Petitioner’s failure to file required valuation disclosure.

II. 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:

Parcel Number	Year	TCV	AV	TV
51-300-091-00	2021	\$726,000	\$363,000	\$340,167

- B. The parties’ contentions of TCV, state equalized value (SEV), and TV for each parcel and tax year at issue:

Parcel Number: 51-300-091-00

Year	Petitioner’s Contentions			Respondent’s Contentions		
	TCV	SEV	TV	TCV	SEV	TV
2021				\$726,000	\$363,000	\$340,167

¹ The parties were required to file and exchange their valuation disclosures and prehearing statements by April 20, 2022. Although Respondent filed their valuation disclosure and prehearing statement by April 20, 2022, Petitioner has not filed any valuation disclosure or prehearing statement. See the October 1, 2021 Prehearing General Call and Order of Procedure.

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

Parcel Number	Year	SEV	TV
51-300-091-00	2021		

D. TAX INFORMATION: Respondent indicates that the taxes at issue have been paid.

III. FACTUAL STATEMENT OF CLAIMS:

A. Classification of property for the tax years at issue:

Parcel Number	Classification
51-300-091-00	Commercial Real

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

Parcel Number	H&BU
51-300-091-00	Commercial

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

D. Petitioner's claims or counterclaims: None provided.

E. Respondent's claims or counterclaims: "Respondent will rely on the facts set forth in its valuation disclosure, property record card, and as testified to by its assessor.

IV. PENDING MOTIONS OR DISCOVERY:

A. Motions: None pending.

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

SCHEDULING ORDER

The parties and the Tribunal have determined the hearing in the above-captioned case shall be conducted as a video conference proceeding. Although video conference proceedings via *Microsoft Teams* are generally set up using email addresses, the Tribunal has provided a "Teams Hearing Link" that can be utilized by participants (i.e., attorneys or agents, witnesses, the court reporter, etc.) to "join" the hearing **and the parties or their attorneys or agents are required to provide that link to their participants** so that they can **timely** "join the hearing."

The Tribunal has also provided a link to *MOAHR MTT Guide for Participants for the Conducting of Entire Tribunal Video Conference Hearings*. Participants **should review** the Guide **prior to the hearing**, as participants **are required to comply** with the

requirements of the *Guide*, as said requirements will facilitate the conducting and transcription of the scheduled hearing. The **parties or their attorneys or agents** are also **required** to provide the link to the *MOAHR MTT Guide for Participants to their participants* so that they are **aware of and can comply with** those requirements.

- I. **August 16, 2022**, is the final date for the parties to submit their exhibit lists **and** exhibits, with the exception of rebuttal exhibits, to the Tribunal by **e-filing or email** and the opposing party or parties by **email**. For the exhibit list, the parties **must use** the form prescribed by the Tribunal. The exhibit list and exhibits **shall be submitted** as provided in the **MOAHR MTT Guide for Participants**. 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. The exhibits may be submitted separately or in a single document **provided** that the single document or PDF is **bookmarked** so that each exhibit can be easily accessed.
- II. **August 16, 2022**, is the final 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, as provided in the **MOAHR MTT Guide for Participants**.


IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioner is HELD IN DEFAULT.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioner shall, **within seven days of the entry of this Order**, file a motion to set aside default with required filing fee and proof of service.² The motion shall show good cause to justify Petitioner's failure to attend or otherwise participate in the scheduled Prehearing Conference. Failure to file the motion with appropriate filing fee and proof of service, as required by this Order will result in the dismissal of the case given Petitioner's established history of deliberate delay in this case.

Failure to comply with all other provisions of this Order may result in the dismissal of the case or the conducting of a show cause or default hearing.³

Entered: July 26, 2022
pmk

By  _____

² See TTR 217(j) and 221(11).

³ See TTR 231(1) and (4). See also *Grimm v Dep't of Treasury*, 291 Mich App 140, 149-50; 810 NW2d 65 (2010) and MCL 205.732(c).

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. 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.⁴

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

⁴ See TTR 321.

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 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_464_017_7.doc within five (5) days of receipt of the Notice of Hearing to ensure availability of accommodation.

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

Website: 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.