

Daniel B. Coffee, Chairman Sandra N. Higginbotham, Member Bryan Watson, Member Lauren A. Harbin, Secretary



Board of Assessors Monthly Meeting Minutes September 17, 2024

- 1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Coffee at 10:00 am at the Tax Assessors Office. A quorum was present including the following: Daniel B. Coffee, Sandra N. Higginbotham, Bryan Watson, and Lauren A. Harbin, Secretary.
- 2. Chairman Coffee noted that the agenda should be changed to include appointing a Vice-Chairman to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Bickley. Mrs. Higginbotham motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment proposed by Chairman Coffee. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Mr. Watson made a motion to appoint Mrs. Higginbotham as the Vice-Chair, Chairman Coffee seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 2-0-0.
- 4. A. Vice-Chair Higginbotham made a motion to approve the August 12, 2024, minutes as presented. Chairman Coffee seconded the motion. Mr. Watson abstained as he was not on the Board in August. The motion passed 2-0-1. B. Vice-Chair Higginbotham made a motion to approve the August 12, 2024, executive session minutes as presented. Chairman Coffee seconded the motion. Mr. Watson abstained as he was not on the Board in August. The motion passed 2-0-1.
- 5. Old Business- Mrs. Harbin informed the Board that she had an email from Carol concerning the 2025 budget, but that no meeting to review any amendments had been scheduled. The email stated that the budget had been set, and it included a 4% raise for all employees.
- 6. New Business
 - A. Mrs. Harbin presented the Board with a copy of the budget through July of 2024. With 80% of the year accounted for there is enough money in the budget to finish the year with no shortfalls. The county has been placed on a spending freeze. The office did have a workstation go down last week. That is being replaced next week but there is money in the budget to cover it.
 - B. The sales ratio study from the DOAA was received. Talbot County passed with a 38.43. The COD and PRD were also in line at 13.35 and 100.31 respectively. It was discussed that while the ratio was on the low side of compliance the county wide reevaluation should bring us closer to 40 percent for 2024. A copy of the study will be made a portion of these minutes.

- C. Homestead applications for 2025 were presented to the Board with the recommendation to approve. Vice-Chair Higginbotham made a motion to approve as recommended. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-0. A listing of approved applications will be made a motion of these minutes.
- D. Mrs. Harbin presented the Board with the error and releases for this past month. Vice-Chair Higginbotham made the motion to approve as presented, and Mr. Watson offered the seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously. A listing of these will be made a portion of the minutes.
- E. In the appeal update Mrs. Harbin provided the Board with a spreadsheet showing the current appeals. These appeals were certified to the Clerk of Superior Court on August 10, 2024, and Mrs. Harbin is waiting to hear from the Appeal administrator on scheduling. A copy of the appeals forwarded will be made a portion of these minutes.
- F. In the Chief appraisers update Mrs. Harbin informed the Board she has met with school superintendent Catrett at his request. He asked her to provide some numbers for the upcoming house bill that will be voted on in November. Mrs. Harbin stated that she provided him the requested documentation the following day and had copied the Board on those emails. Mrs. Harbin informed the Board that they were working through the current building permits to prepare the 2025 digest. Mrs. Harbin stated that she would most likely be taking surgical leave towards the end of the year once the appeals were completed. Finally, she requested the Board members get her their BOA days so that she could submit the supplement requests. Mrs. Harbin asked Mr. Watson to please get his financial paperwork completed, so that he could receive payment.
- G. In members matters the Chairman Coffee informed the Board that he had met with the Tax Commissioners office and signed the digest submission packet on August 30, 2024.
- H. The next scheduled monthly meeting is tentatively set for October 15th at 2pm.
- A motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Higginbotham at 11:13 am, Mr. Watson seconded the motion.
 The motion passed unanimously.

Members remained to sign paperwork for approximately 5 minutes.

Submitted by Lauren A. Harbin, Secretary

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Daniel B. Coffee, Chairman

Sandra N. Higginbotham, Vice-Chair

Bryan Watson, Member