The Wadena County Board of Equalization Meeting was held on June 17, 2019 in the Small Courtroom, Wadena County Courthouse, 415 South Jefferson Street, Wadena, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Commissioner Horsager and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present were: Commissioners Sheldon Monson, Jon Kangas, Jim Hofer, County Coordinator/Engineer Ryan Odden, County Attorney Kyra Ladd, County Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson, County Assessor Lee Brekke, Assistant Assessor Brian Folden, County Appraiser Monica Sanford, County Appraiser Jason Jorgenson, Chief Deputy Joe Schoon, Slava Pukshansky, James Albie, Bill Hartman, Human Service Deb Godding, Review Messenger reporter Matthew Johnson, Wadena Pioneer Journal reporter Michael Johnson and Independent New Herald reporter Trinity Gruenberg.

The Board was sworn in by Kathy Ouren, Court Administrator for Wadena County.

James Albie – Parcel #13.027.3025 – Mr. Albie was present to request that his valuation be reduced. He compared the private appraisal to the County appraisal. Motion by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Kangas for no change to Parcel #13.027.3025. Motion carried unanimously.

Craig Folkestad – Parcel #22.300.1800 and Parcel #22.300.1810 – Mr. Folkestad did not appear. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Auditor/Treasurer Heather Olson for no change to Parcel #22.300.1800 and Parcel #22-300-1810. Motion carried unanimously.

Minnesota Eyecare – Parcel #22.830.0010 – Mr. Bill Hartman was present to ask for a reduction in the valuation of his commercial building. It was classified as medical because each room has a sink in it. Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Monson to reduce the valuation of the property by $30,000.00. Carried 4-1. Voting aye were Commissioners Kangas, Horsager, Monson and Auditor/Treasurer Olson. Voting nay was Commissioner Hofer.

Wadena Nursing Realty LLC – Parcel #22.008.1010 and #22.008.1015 – Mr. Slava Pukshansky was present to make the request to lower the property values of these parcels. Motion by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Auditor/Treasurer Olson to make no change to Parcel #22.008.0115. Motion carried unanimously. He also wanted the parcel #22.008.1010 changed from commercial to residential property as they are apartments. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Auditor/Treasurer Olson to approve the reclassification of parcel #22.008.1010 from commercial (233) to residential property (205). Motion carried unanimously.

A break was taken at 4:28 pm. The meeting reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

The following are changes that were recommended by the Wadena County Assessor’s Office:
Daniel Cameron – Parcel #01.009.1010 – the Classification on the property be changed from Residential (201) to Agricultural (101). With a valuation increase of $15,500.00. Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Monson to change the classification of Parcel #01.009.1010 from residential to agricultural and increase the valuation by $15,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Cecelia Harrison – Parcel #16.300.0690 – After viewing the recommendation was to lower the property value by $19,100.00. Moved by Commissioner Hofer, seconded by Auditor/Treasurer Olson to go with the assessor recommendation of a reduction of $19,100.00 on Parcel #16.009.1010. Motion carried unanimously.

Stephen Benson – Parcel #13.023.4010 – After viewing the recommendation was to lower the property value by $22,800.00. Moved by Commissioner Kangas, seconded by Commissioner Monson to go with the assessor’s recommendation of a reduction of $22,800.00 on Parcel #13.023.4010. Motion carried unanimously.

Charlie Martin – Parcel #03.036.3010 – After viewing the recommendation was to lower the property value by $8,700.00. Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Hofer to go with the assessor’s recommendation of a reduction of $8,700.00 on Parcel # 03.036.3010. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn the meeting at 5:06 pm.

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Ryan Odden,  Charles Horsager, Vice-Chairperson
Wadena County Coordinator/Engineer  Wadena County Commissioners