

**CITY OF RUGBY
ANNUAL EQUALIZATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022– 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR GOTO**

City of Rugby Board of Equalization Members present: Lotvedt, Berg, LaRocque, Brossart (by phone), and Trottier. Also present were Mayor Steinke, City Tax Assessor/Pierce County Director of Tax Equalization Kelsey Siegler, Chief of Police Rose and City Auditor Stewart.

Absent were Bednarz, Lunde, Kraft and Attorney Hartl.

Public present: Rick Srur, Wayne Hermanson, Rose Selensky, Jodi and Paul Schaan, Colleen Hermanson and Leon Fritel.

Steinke called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Steinke.

The board reviewed the responsibilities of the Tax Equalization Board.

Siegler reviewed the Ag Land, Summary of Changes, Homestead Credit Applications, Disabled American Veterans Applications, Blind Exemptions and New Residence Exemptions. She reviewed the Discretionary Tax Exemptions and Payments in Lieu of Taxes that had previously been approved.

Siegler explained that the first step is to contact her when the notice of increase is received, so that she may review your property. The second step is to appear at the city equalization, tonight, and present facts and burden of proof as to what your value should be. The third step is to appear at the county equalization meeting and present your facts and burden of proof as to what your value should be. The fourth step is to appear before the state board of equalization to present your facts and burden of proof as to what your value should be. If no relief is granted at the state level you may proceed with the legal route to have your value changed.

Steinke explained that the public in attendance will each receive 4 minutes to present their facts to the city board of equalization.

Wayne Hermanson questioned Siegler if the true and full value is fair market value and would be the value they would use if they were to put their home on the market for sale. She explained that the true and full value is their estimate of what the value would be within 95%. He questioned the asking price of a neighbor's home in comparison to his value. He asked Siegler to analyze the two home values and let him know why his is valued higher. Steinke concluded that if there is any recommendation after that analysis, it would be adjusted at the county equalization meeting. Siegler confirmed that was correct.

Rose Selensky questioned if there was a discount in property tax for individuals who are age 90. Siegler explained there is a Homestead Credit Application that she could discuss with Selensky personally in her office. Selensky agreed that would be acceptable.

Paul and Jodi Schaan explained that he would like to have Siegler analyze his property, outside of this meeting, as she will do with the Hermanson property. Siegler explained that they have made exterior improvements to their home, which had a significant impact on the increase in value. Schaan questioned the website that Pierce County assessment information is found. Siegler explained to Schaan where to find the website.

Siegler explained that after 20-30 years changes in homes are anticipated to occur.

LaRocque questioned when the need for a notice of increase occurred.

There was a motion by Lotvedt to approve the summary of changes and tax assessment roll as presented. Second by Berg, roll call vote, Lotvedt-yes, Berg – yes, LaRocque-no, Trottier-no, Brossart-yes, motion carried.

There being no further business to transact or to come before the board at this time, there was a motion by Trottier to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Second by Brossart, all voting yes, motion carried.

*These are unofficial minutes, subject to edits, and have not been approved by the city council.