

2022 VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD
Minutes of the May Monthly VAB Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2023
9:00 AM, Council Chambers
1st Floor, City Hall (St. James)

Council Member Randy DeFoor, Chair
Council Member Danny Becton
Council Member Rory Diamond, Alternate, **Excused**
School Board Member Charlotte Joyce
Council Appointed Citizen Member Shirley Dasher
School Board Appointed Citizen Member Dominic Cummings, **Excused**

In Attendance:

Margaret M. "Peggy" Sidman, Value Adjustment Board Clerk, **Excused**
Heather Pelegrin, Assistant Chief Legislative Services, VAB
Johnathan Griffis, Value Adjustment Board Staff
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief of Legislative Services
William H. Jeter, Jr., Value Adjustment Board Attorney
Brooks Dame, Executive Council Assistant, Council Member DeFoor
Joseph Johnson, Executive Council Assistant, Council Member Becton
Tiffany Pinkstaff, Counsel to the Property Appraiser
Jerry Holland, Property Appraiser
Keith Hicks, Chief Appraiser, PAO
Harry Guetherman, Commercial Division Chief, PAO
Jim Ogburn, Residential Division Chief, PAO
Justin Gicalone, Customer Service Division Chief, PAO
Sage Sullivan, Tangible Personal Property Division Chief, PAO

Chairwoman DeFoor called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM

1. Introduction of Board and staff.
2. Chairwoman DeFoor stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the meeting minutes from the 2022 VAB Board meeting held on April 13, 2023. William Jeter, VAB Attorney, Asked the Board to amend the meeting minutes on page 2, paragraph 9, line 2, to correct the number of 10% to 110%. **Board Member Becton made a motion to amend the minutes and change the number 10% to 110%. The motion was seconded by Board Member Joyce. The Board Approved 4-0. Board Member Becton made a motion to approve the amended meeting minutes from the 2022 VAB Board meeting held on April 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Board Member Joyce. The Board Approved 4-0.**
3. Public Comments. There were none.
4. Deferral requests from Petitioners. There were none.
5. Deferral requests from the Property Appraiser's Office. There were none.
6. Consider the recommended decisions listed on the two page excel spreadsheet for the 2022 May 11, 2023, VAB Meeting. **Board Member Becton made a motion to Approve all of the recommended decisions on the excel spreadsheet. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dasher. The Board Approved 4-0.**
7. Chairwoman DeFoor stated that at the last meeting there was an issue regarding several remands. She asked William Jeter, VAB Attorney, to walk the Board through the remand procedures. Mr. Jeter explained the remand process including that there is no deadline for the

Property Appraiser's Office to respond to a Special Magistrate's remand. He also stated that as of the last Board meeting there were a number of remands that had been pending for a significant amount of time causing some concern for the Board since the Board must by statute conclude all business by June 1, or so it was thought at that time. He then explained that due to a number of late filed petitions recently received by the VAB, the deadline for the Board to conclude their business is now extended to December 1. Nevertheless, the pending remands and the Property Appraiser's failure to respond to the remands created a conversation regarding what ways could be implemented to improve the system. One of the suggestions is that the VAB and the Property Appraiser could establish some sort of deadline by which the Property Appraiser would respond to the Special Magistrate remands. There would be a mutual understanding between the VAB and the Property Appraiser so that everyone would have some certainty of how the process would work. Mr. Jeter concluded by saying that is where we find ourselves today and that is the background. The Chair then called on Jerry Holland, Property Appraiser, to speak on the matter. The Chair asked Mr. Holland what the Property Appraiser's response would be to a 15-day time frame in which the Property Appraiser's Office responds to any Special Magistrate remands. Mr. Holland responded that that idea is something that can be specifically addressed at some point. However, Mr. Holland first stated that he does not believe that Property Appraiser delays are the root of the problem. He believes that, for 2022, the issue comes down to his office receiving 33 total remands and 21 of those on the same day. Mr. Holland added that another real issue is the scheduling of the hearings. He suggested that his staff and the VAB staff sit down and work out the scheduling issue. The Chair thanked Mr. Holland for his comments and then recognized Merriane Lahmeur, Chief of Legislative Services. Ms. Lahmeur stated that the VAB Clerk has asked that the Board discuss the idea of a 15-day deadline for the Property Appraiser's Office to respond to any Special Magistrate remands. She also stated that VAB staff is always happy to meet with the Property Appraiser's staff to coordinate scheduling issues after that but that the VAB Clerk would like any guidance from the Board on the 15-day deadline as it pertains to the remand issue. She also stated that beginning next VAB year, VAB staff will prepare a monthly report each month to the Board which shall include the number of reschedules that have taken place as well as who the party was who requested the reschedule. The report will apprise the reschedules and what is being asked of the VAB. The Chair asked Mr. Holland if he would support a 15-day deadline for Special Magistrate remand responses. Mr. Holland stated that he would support it. He asked the Chair what the consequence would be for not meeting the 15-day deadline. The Chair stated that it was more of setting a goal and putting structure in place that is not currently there and Mr. Holland agreed. **Board Member Becton made a motion to implement a 15-day deadline goal for remand responses from the Property Appraiser's Office and to implement a report to the Board each month from VAB staff regarding reschedules. The motion was seconded by Board Member Dasher. Board approved 4-0.**

8. The Chair then asked Heather Pelegrin, Assistant Chief – VAB, for the next Board meeting date. Heather explained that there was the need for one more Board meeting to close out the year for a handful of recommended decisions as well as the pending remands to be ratified by the Board. She also stated that staff was proposing May 25, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers as the date for the final meeting depending on everyone's availability. Board Member Becton stated that he would not be available on May 25th and the Chair asked if there was another date. Heather stated she could email all Board members regarding their availability if that would be more convenient. The Chair stated since everyone was there that she would like to set the date. Heather explained that a quorum would only require one member from each body. The Chair asked Heather to reach out to Mr. Cummings to find out his availability for the 25th and stated that she would like to stick with that date and time.

Announce date and location of next 2022 VAB meeting:

Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM
1st Floor, City Hall, Council Chambers

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 AM.