

To all town residents:

On August 31, 2016, a public meeting was held regarding assessments. It was appreciated that so many residents attended this meeting. Peter Galarneau, the Fulton County Real Property Tax Services Director and Assemblyman Marc Butler participated in the program. A power point explaining tax rates and assessments was given by the supervisor and then there was an opportunity for questions. Mr. Galarneau and Mr. Butler fielded most of the questions.

The attachment is a copy of the powerpoint presentation. The questions that followed addressed a variety issues such as:

- how do we get the state to pay more in taxes for the state owned land in Stratford. This was addressed to Marc Butler.
- to what towns can Stratford be compared. This is in the powerpoint.
- what would another reval include. Peter Galarneau discussed how it might not be necessary to do a new complete data collection.
- how can we be sure it's done correctly. The board needs to make a thorough and careful review of contractors and the board needs to be properly trained in the reval process .

There also seemed to be a recognition that we need to fix the problem created by the last reval and subsequent lawsuit.

The next step is to have the Town Board pass a resolution and get information out to contractors (Request for Proposal). It will take a few months to decide on a contractor and see if the project is affordable. The whole process can take up to a year. So for a 2018 completion date, the Board can't delay much longer.

A resolution will be presented at the next Town Board meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2016 to decide whether we go forward with the reval process.

Respectfully,

Allicia Rice, Supervisor