

## Steele County Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meetings

Recently Steele County Taxpayers received Valuation Notices for 2020 values for taxes payable in 2021. These notices informed taxpayers of the 2020 valuation and classification of their property. These values and classifications are for 2021 taxes. The Valuation Notice also described a process to appeal your value or classification.

The informal Open Book meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> is now canceled. This includes the Townships of Berlin, Lemond, Meriden, Merton, and Somerset. This does not affect your right to appeal, simply call the Steele County Assessor's Office at 507-444-7435 to discuss your questions or concerns you may have related to your assessment for 2020.

If your jurisdiction has a Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE):

Due to the Governor's Emergency Executive Order directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home along with the public health recommendations for COVID-19 pandemic social distancing, it will be difficult for in-person attendance at the meeting place. If any member of the public would like to make a public comment at the LBAE meeting, please contact the Steele County Assessor's Office by phone, (507) 444-7435, or email us with your comments at [assessor@co.steele.mn.us](mailto:assessor@co.steele.mn.us) prior to the designated meeting date. The Assessor's Office will present your concerns to the LBAE.

Some jurisdictions may forego a virtual meeting and proceed with an in-person meeting, the board is required to also allow any board member, county representative, and/or taxpayer to virtually attend the LBAE meeting. Most facilities do not have the technology available for use in the short time before the scheduled meetings.

### **What can you do?**

**Please call the Steele County Assessor at 507-444-7435.**

**We are encouraging all appeals to go through the Assessor's Office. We will place your name on the Official Local Board of Appeal and Equalization listing. This will keep your appeal options open and allow the Assessor's Office additional time to review your assessment when public health conditions allow. All appeals on the listing will be presented to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization on June 16 , 2020.**

If you believe that your valuation and classification are correct, it is not necessary to contact your assessor and/or attend any of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings.

If the property information is not correct, if you disagree with the values, or if you have questions about your notice, please contact your assessor first at **(507) 444-7435** to discuss any questions or concerns.

Often your issues can be resolved at this level. The assessor will advise you of your further appeal rights, if needed.