



ENVISION ARLINGTON FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP  
Meeting Minutes  
7:30 PM 10/15/20

On Line via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Garborino (Co-Chair), Jonathan Haughton, Brian Hasbrouck, Heather Remoff, Mike DeLisi, Janet Pagliuco, Pete Howard (Secretary), Select Board Member Len Diggins, Deputy Town Manager Sandy Pooler, Director of Assessments Paul Tierney, Assessor Data Collector Dana Mann, Steve Revilac

1. Gordon read the Town's ground rules for this kind of meeting drafted to conform with the Governor's guidance. The attendees are listed above.

2. Gordon provided background for the meeting. The group had studied what it would take to extend the time between overrides. We found that relatively small increases in new growth would gain a year. (This finding has not been reexamined since the pandemic began.) Mike, working with the assessor's housing database, found several cases where large costs were estimated by the building inspector but the building assessment did not increase equivalently. This seemed to be a loss to the Town of some new growth. Mike & Gordon met w/ Sandy who promised to get an explanation. Sandy did explain the assessment process for building renovations and additions, but he was unable to explain Mike's cases. This meeting is was setup to explain Mike's cases.

There followed a general discussion. The notes that follow record some relevant statements. The Town provided no report but offered to answer questions. Jon showed the property card for one of the dubious cases. There was no indication of an inspection though Dana said there had been an inspection but that he had neglected to record it. He said that when he went to inspect a property and no one came to the door, he would leave a card asking for the owner to contact the assessor's office. After some time, if no one called, he would estimate the value of the work done and increase the assessment accordingly. New growth is computed by the State using the increase in total assessment adjusted by an algorithm that probably adjusts for inflation, location and maybe other things. Members wondered how it could estimate the value of land value increase. For the example that Jon showed, the value may have been recovered when the property sold. Paul noted that the initial estimate on the permit may not correspond closely to the assessment increase for good reason. Mike pointed out that when new growth is delayed, the Town loses the use of this increase and its compounded effect. Sandy believes the structural deficit is about \$3m/yr and he doubts that correcting new growth would be large enough to offset the deficit. He agreed that improving the record would be helpful. He thanked the FRTG for their interest.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Next mtg November 19, 2020  
Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in the Senior Center