



TOWN OF FORESTBURGH

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To: Town Board

February 8, 2017

From: Dennis R. Ketcham, IAO

Re: 2018 Revaluation Project

GAR Appraisals initiated our revaluation project in January 2016 with a mass mailing to all town property owners, introducing the project and announcing the public meeting that was held at the Forestburgh firehouse. There were approximately 30 individuals present including myself and Cindy Dodd. The mailing also made available the option of scheduling an appointment for data collection; approximately 10 property owners contacted us for appointments.

Data collection started immediately in January 2016 and still continues today. In addition to the outside field work, we are updating the Property Record Cards and entering the data in the NYS Real Property System (RPS). My office is working closely with the town Building Inspectors office when our inspections uncover potential illegal and/or unsafe building conditions or improvements.

We are reviewing, resorting, and refileing all the real property deeds this Assessors' office has received from 1990 to present, they are being reviewed to insure that the information that is recited in the deed, and reviewed by Sullivan County Tax Map, correlates with RPS, as I have found discrepancies. Additionally, I am working with Sullivan County Real Property Tax Director Ed Homenick, and Tax Map Technician Chris Knapp, to correlate, verify and correct any problematic data that exists between: the deeds, RPS, actual printed tax maps, and the county ImageMate system. We are also correcting/ verifying & changing problem 911 addresses' with the appropriate county office as they arise.

I have been in contact with GAR Appraisals intermittently over the last year via phone, email, and in person to provide updates and exchange digital data; per the contract, they had little to do with the data collection part of this project. I officially requested a Utility Advisory Appraisal from NYS Taxation & Finance Valuation Services Bureau on February 12, 2016. They have not yet committed to perform this appraisal.

I anticipate data collection to be completed in the next several months, weather permitting, once complete, we will be sending data mailers containing the information gathered in our collection efforts. Property owners will then have an opportunity to offer comment to the data. There is no assessment or tax information contained in the data mailers.