

City of Wilmont  
Equalization Meeting  
April 24, 2023 at 2:30 pm

Mayor Gene Bertrand called to order the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 2:30 pm at the Wilmont Community Center & the Pledge of Allegiance was said. The purpose of this meeting was for the City of Wilmont Equalization hearing. Council members present were Alicia Entinger, Isaac Joens & Mayor Gene Bertrand. Others present were City Clerk, Amber Bertrand, County assessor Val Reusch, Local Assessor Erik Skogquist, David Maras & Bruce Heitkamp with the Court.

Val Reusch went over the reasons for the increase and stated that since the City of Wilmont had over 6 homes sell in 2021-2022 the City needed to be in a certain percentage which is 90-105% which is set by the State but the City was sitting at 69.88% of market value. The time trend was also set at 15.34%. Land adjustments were made city wide, small cities, townships, etc. A lot of residents may have seen a 32-40% increase on the value of their home and this is across the board in most small cities but especially those that had more than 6 homes sell.

Gary Klenken was present and had some questions about the prices decreasing this year or at least the interest rates and as Val had explained the tax valuations are taken from the priors years sales and not this years so could possibly see a change next year but will depend on what the market all does and what homes sell for within the city. Gary wanted to dispute the values on the homes he own in the City. Isaac made motion for no change and was seconded by Alicia. All in favor.

Ed Herrig asked how taxes will be figured out with property value increasing so much which Erik stated that even if the value has increased on the homes it doesn't mean the taxes will increase that same percentage and that they can't pinpoint what the increase will be until budgets are done. Ed didn't like how the values had to jump so much in 1 year. He also wanted to dispute the value on the small strip of land he owns. The council had decreased the value to 4,500 3 years ago but with the increase in values over the years he is back up to 7,500. It was brought up if he would save by combining but Erik explained that he wouldn't really treat the values any different as he already treats as excess land which means it is already at 50% of what the value could be. Alicia made motion and Isaac seconded for no change in value. All in favor.

Becky Remakel was present to dispute the value on her home as it increased 41% and no updates or anything have been done to the home or land. Erik explained that land value took an increase of 30% and the Improvement value on the statement just means everything that is not land and that increased 38%. Val and Erik explained that some of her larger increase in value is due to how much the houses sold for in Wilmont. Isaac made motion for no change to value and was seconded by Alicia. All in favor.

Isaac Joens was present to dispute the value on his home. He said the value increased 90,000 and even got an appraisal that shows the value shouldn't be as high as what the County has set it at. Isaac abstained from voting. Alicia made motion for no change and was seconded by Gene. All in favor.

LeAnn Mulder sent a letter to the County disputing the value of her home as she feels it is to high priced for what she has. The County looked it over and discussed with the Council but feels that the value is in line with what other houses her size are at. Isaac made motion for no change in value and was seconded by Alicia. All in favor.

Gary Klenken, Ed Herrig, Becky Remakel, Isaac Joens and LeAnn Mulder can go to the County Board to appeal the City Councils decision since they were present or wrote a letter to dispute.

No one else had any other issues or questions so a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alicia Entinger and seconded by Isaac Joens. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes taken by Amber Bertrand

Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Wilmont