

January 30, 2017

Scarsdale Board of Trustees
Village Hall
1001 Post Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

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MANAGER'S OFFICE
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To Members of the Scarsdale Board of Trustees:

I am writing to inform you that while there is one rather vocal group of residents who have filed an Article 78 proceeding, there are far more who have a better understanding of the complex assessment process and who realize that rescinding the 2016 assessment is both impractical and unwise.

All residents who were unhappy with their assessments had ample opportunity to grieve their taxes. If those currently filing suit chose not to do so, or were unsuccessful, there is no reason why they should negate the efforts of those residents who did.

I've lived in Scarsdale for nearly 30 years in three different houses of varying values. I grieved my taxes in each home and was successfully each time although, of course, never for the full reduction amount that I requested. EVERYONE in Scarsdale pays extremely high taxes, but that was no surprise when we each moved in, and it covers the costs essential to support the services we ALL enjoy.

The 2014 revaluation kept some property assessments where they were, reduced some, and increased many others. The 2016 reval did the same, but with a different set of homes. Over the span of both, the overall outcome, to my understanding, is that Scarsdale made two concerted efforts to rectify the imperfect assessments. In the 30 years I have lived here, I have learned to be patient and things will even out in the end. Looking at a single revaluation without the broader context is not helpful.

Perhaps those who are complaining should have grieved like the rest of us. And perhaps they should realize that they may not have been paying their "fair share" previously and benefitted from THAT situation for quite some time, while the REST OF US may have been overpaying for all those years. Maybe the petitioners need to understand the bigger picture. It is illogical to look at increases from only the 2016 reval without accounting for 2014 changes as well. **A more relevant analysis of the situation would be to evaluate the combined change from BOTH the 2014 and 2016 revaluations.** And to also account for the significant inconsistencies that existed **before either reval** took place.

Perhaps then, those who benefitted in 2014 (likely everyone on the current suit and then some) might realize that they are missing the big picture.

And perhaps then they should withdraw their petition so that the village does not have to use our tax dollars to deal with their myopic claims.

If the village does rescind the 2016 reval, what would happen to those whose assessments had been reduced? Will this vocal group of residents pay to reimburse THEM for the increase that occurs? And what about people who grieved successfully? Will their revised assessments be rescinded too? That would be absurd. And what happens if/when residents who are hurt by rescinding the 2016 reval decide to sue the village as well? The ramifications of rescinding the 2016 reval go on and on. Rescinding does not seem to be a viable option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Scarsdale resident since 1989