

Informal and Grievance Day FAQs

Where can information regarding assessors and certifications, process of valuing, and more be found?

Information regarding the above can be found through tax.ny.gov. There are numerous publications and websites outlining the process of certification to become an assessor, how a parcel is valued, procedures for contesting your assessment, understanding different terminology included in the assessment (cost, time adjusted sale price, equalization rates, etc.), and more.

Please note that it has come to our attention that a great deal of misinformation is being disseminated on Facebook. We would like to remind all residents that if you have questions on reassessments or the process itself, please call or email our office to receive answers to the questions you have, visit tax.ny.gov, or see the FAQ page on the Town of Walworth website.

Are informal meetings requirements by law?

No. Informal meetings are not required by law to be held. It is up to the assessor to determine if informal meetings will be held.

Who can hold informal meetings?

Anyone can hold an informal meeting, including any town hall employee, appointed, and elected officials of the town.

This is because **no decisions are made at informal meetings**. The meetings are a fact-finding session only; information is exchanged by the parties, and the assessor reviews all the information following the meeting.

What if I do not agree with the amount the assessor offers me for stipulation?

If you do not agree to the amount offered for stipulation, sometimes this can be discussed further with the assessor.

If the supporting documentation you provide to the assessor (appraisal or market analysis) supports a value that is comparable to what the assessor offers for stipulation, and you still do not agree with the value, you may be asked to provide additional documentation to support your difference in opinion.

If you choose to not accept a stipulation after discussions with the assessor, and you choose to attend Grievance Day, please note that you will be discussing the **preliminary assessed value**, not the amount offered to you as a stipulation.

Can the date of Grievance Day be changed?

Real Property Tax Law dictates that Grievance Day is the fourth Tuesday in May, with few exceptions, including if a municipality shares an assessor. If an assessor is shared, Grievance Day must be adopted between the fourth Tuesday in May and the second Tuesday in June. Please refer to tax.ny.gov for more detailed information.

To change Grievance Day from the fourth Tuesday in May as a result of a shared assessor, a local law is adopted. The Town of Walworth adopted a local law stating that Grievance Day shall be the first Thursday after the fourth Tuesday in May. As a result, Grievance Day for 2021 must be held on **Thursday, May 27th**.

Grievance Day can and will be extended to ensure all residents who attend will be seen. All residents with appointments will be seen first; those who attend without an appointment will be asked to wait until the appointments during that time slot have been seen.

Who is legally allowed to value a property?

The assessor is the only person who is certified to value properties and is the only person responsible for doing this. No one else in the office carries out this duty.

The assistant (or another employee) can discuss your questions, share your comparables, and provide the values and stipulations as dictated by the assessor, but these employees are **not** involved in the valuation process and have nothing to do with deciding your assessment.

Information as to how valuation is completed can be found on the previous FAQ on the town website, at tax.ny.gov, or by calling the assessment department.