



**Town of Woodbridge**  
**Board of Assessment Appeals**  
**Hearing Minutes – October 1, 2020 Grand List**  
**Woodbridge Town Hall - 11 Meetinghouse Lane**  
**September 3, 2021 - 2 pm**

Board of Assessment Members Present: Chair Jeffrey Ginzberg Esq., Andrew Schaffer, Esq. and Lin Yang

- Meeting called to order at 2:30 pm.
- Hearings:

**2:30pm:** Board introduced and oath administered.

**Appellant: Ryan D. Mills** – 1189 Johnson Road, Woodbridge CT

**Vehicle:** 2004 Toyota Sienna

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Decision:** Assessment changed from **\$ 2,840** to **\$ 1,050** based on average trade-in value.

**2:40 pm:** Board introduced and oath administered.

**Appellant: Connecticut Branches, LLC** – 30 Hazel Terrace, Woodbridge CT (physical address)  
PO Box 3824, Woodbridge CT (mailing address)

Jodie Simpson - Operations Manager, LLC Member

**Appeal Reason:** High mileage and body condition were the appeal reason for 11 vehicles within the business' motor vehicle fleet. The Connecticut Branches' fleet is used to transport foster children back and forth to school in circumstances where they are placed in foster care outside of the school district they were originally registered to attend. The State of CT requires this transportation, and the business is paid by the State for the service it provides. Vehicles relating to this appeal are noted below.

**Vehicle1:** 2015 Toyota Prius

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage & body condition

**Vehicle 2:** 2012 Toyota Camry SE

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage & body condition

**Vehicle 3:** 2014 Toyota Camry LE

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage, body condition and body style should be LE rather than L

**Vehicle 4:** 2012 Toyota Camry XLE

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage, body condition and body style should be XLE rather than SE

**Vehicle 5:** 2016 Toyota Camry HY  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Vehicle 6:** 2018 Toyota Camry LE  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Vehicle 7:** 2015 Toyota Sienna L  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Vehicle 8:** 2015 Toyota Prius  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Vehicle 9:** 2018 Toyota Camry LE  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Vehicle 10:** 2015 Toyota Sienna L  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Vehicle 11:** 2014 Toyota Scion XB  
**Appeal Reason:** high mileage

**Decision: No change to current assessment** for any vehicle within the fleet.

A motion was made by Chairman Ginzberg, seconded by member Schaffer, to deny the Applicant's request to reduce the assessed value of a fleet of 11 vehicles used in a livery service business whose customers included, among others, the State of Connecticut, below the value shown on the NADA book based upon high mileage claims and, in some limited cases, the condition of the vehicles. The motion carried by unanimous decision. The Applicant failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence in regard to each of the 11 vehicles that: (1) there existed any substandard condition of the vehicles in question warranting a reduction; (2) the Applicant was entitled to a reduction in assessed value for undisputed high mileage when the Applicant failed to produce for inspection any of the subject vehicles; (3) the vehicles were in any way inoperable or of limited use in a livery business due to mileage and condition, and to the contrary were in fact in full operation and of full value to the business; (4) the Applicant had not previously taken, or would not be taking, the assessed taxes as tax deductions on federal and state business tax returns; or (5) the value that the Applicant had already established for depreciation and mileage on the business and state tax returns matched the value that the Applicant had sought for the assessment tax purposes. The Applicant did not challenge the NADA book value of each vehicle; just that reductions should be taken for mileage. Claims made concerning the condition of the vehicles were for the most part de minimus, of limited credibility, and were not pressed at the hearing.

Motion passed unanimously. **Vote:** Yes - Jeffrey Ginzberg, Andrew Schaffer, and Lin Yang

**5:00 pm:** Board introduced and oath administered.

**Appellant:** Senliang Pan – 30 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge CT

**Vehicle:** 2007 Honda CRV

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage & body condition resulting from accident

**Decision:** Assessment changed from \$ 5,180 to \$ 2,520 based on rough trade-in value.

**5:10 pm:** Board introduced and oath administered.

**Appellant:** John DeSarbo – 14 Coachman Lane, Woodbridge CT

**Vehicle1:** 2010 Lexus HS250H

**Appeal Reason:** high mileage, body condition including severe front-end damage and mechanical issues; previous exemptions removed.

**Decision:** Assessment changed from \$ 5,290 to \$ 350 based on salvage value.

**5:40 pm:** Board introduced and oath administered.

**Appellant:** Sekot Home Improvement – 40 Cedar Rock Rd, Woodbridge, CT

Mariusz Mucha

**Vehicle 1:** 2015 Ford F150

**Appeal Reason:** Estimates salvage-rebuild truck value to be 40-50% less than book value. Evidence was presented to show that vehicle was a salvage-rebuild.

**Decision:** Assessment changed from \$ 21,460 to \$7,000 based on salvage rebuild value.

**Vehicle 2:** 2015 GMC K1500 Sierra

**Appeal Reason:** Estimates salvage-rebuild truck value to be 40-50% less than book value. Electrical issues were noted. Evidence was presented to show that vehicle was a salvage-rebuild.

**Decision:** Assessment changed from \$ 19,530 to \$ 7,000 based on salvage rebuild value.

• Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*