Protocol Column

Continued from page 7

Board of Tax Review. This local Board meets three times in February and once in September. The Board has the authority to adjust and equalize the valuation and assessment list of the town. It also has the authority to add to the grand list any taxable property omitted by the assessor. But before increasing a taxpayer's assessment, the Board must send written notification to the taxpayer.

2. You may bypass the local Board of tax Review and appeal an assessment directly to the Superior Court. This type of appeal can only be made when the property assessed is not taxable in the town, or where a clear and flagrant disregard of the law exists.

Revaluation provides the basis for each property owner's tax bill. The quality of revaluation depends on the knowledge and skill of the assessor and the quality of the assessment company hired and access to correct information. When properly conducted, revaluation gives taxpayers the opportunity to examine their own assessment to ensure that the tax assessed is based on an accurate value of their property.

Revaluation is being conducted in Winchester by the Cole, Layer & Trumbull of Manchester, CT, and is expected to continue at least through the summer months. Representatives of this company have identification which they should present to property owners before permission is granted to enter the premises. The identification includes a badge with a photo and a letter from the town tax assessor on town stationery. Residents should ask to see both forms of identification.

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