The Round Lake Board of Review was held on Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 2:30pm. Val Ruesch, Nobles County Assessor was host of the meeting. Councilmembers present were Paul Cunningham, Jennifer Rehnelt, Walon Habben and Mayor Timothy Kennedy. Others present were Martin and Cindy Waage, John Meyer and Linda Pospisil from the Nobles County Assessor’s office, Mike Christofiles and Clerk Elaine Walker.

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 2:30pm.

Nobles County Assessor, Val Ruesch presented the 2020 statistics to the Council. Before they did the quintile, Round Lake was at 83% and the State requires us to be at 90% minimum to be in compliance. We had 6 sales in the city of Round Lake in 2020 and if you have 6 you need to make sure every property is valued correctly, based on the sales in your town. We are now at 102.28%, so we are in compliance with the State requirements.

They will continue to do the quintile assessing, which means they will be individually assessing the property in 1/5 of the town each year. They have 1/5 of the town left and the process will be complete for making sure the entire town is valued correctly. Removing the obsolescence that was put on year ago is creating a hike in most of the property values.

Mike Christofiles spoke up and feels his property is over 100 years old and there have been very few improvements over the years. He will consider having John come and do an interior review of the property to see if there was a reason for the obsolescence when it was put on the property years ago. Maybe there is some reason for it, the county has no notes on the reason in the file. If there is something that would merit the classification, he would like it put back on to decrease the value with that obsolescence discount applied. The value of his home went up about $31,000 and he feels there is no valid reason for the increase. Motion by Rehnelt, second by Cunningham to leave valuation as it is. All ayes: Carried.

Martin Waage spoke up and feels that his parcel was unfairly increased in value over the years. His property was in the quintile in 2019 and his shop had a big jump in previous years. John explained that our town had incorrectly been given a discount that was removed and it caused many properties to increase dramatically. Martin’s parcel had a finished basement and bathroom, that were not recorded previously. Round Lake, as well as many other small towns in the area, enjoyed many years of discounts that were not merited and it will level out in the future, since these discounts have been removed. The 38% discount on Martin’s property was removed causing the dramatic jump. Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to leave valuation as it is. All ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Habben, second by Rehnelt to adjourn. All ayes: Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:43pm.