

State Board of Equalization
March 2nd, 2023

The State Board of Equalization met in the 8th Floor Conference Room of the State Tax Commissioner in the North Dakota State Capitol and virtually through Microsoft TEAMS, Thursday, March 2nd, 2023.

The following members were present:

Lieutenant Governor Tammy Miller, Chairperson
Thomas Beadle, State Treasurer
Doug Goehring, Commissioner of Agriculture
Brian Kroshus, Commissioner of Tax

The following member was absent:

Josh Gallion, State Auditor

Lieutenant Governor Miller called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

It was moved by Treasure Beadle and seconded Commissioner Kroshus to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022, meeting. Upon roll call vote, all participating members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Lieutenant Governor Miller introduced the second item of business, the review of application for tax exemption for a new business project submitted by Stone Mill, LLC, and turned the meeting over to Commissioner Kroshus. Commissioner Kroshus provided a summary of information about the business plan, employment, and projections.

Daneen Dresser, Stone Mill, LLC, provided a detailed overview of business including the current product of oat groats, which are in high demand, the heat steam process of making these into a usable product, as well as revenue projections.

Lieutenant Governor Miller congratulated Daneen the success of a growing family-owned business and asked if the finished product going out of state will be staying in the United States or if it will be exported internationally.

Daneen stated it will stay mainly in the United States and the highest demand currently is for oat milk. Daneen followed up with the main growing competition for these oats is in Canada and the main demand is in the United States. Located in Richardton, ND, they are close to the customer and close to the growing zone that puts them in a unique location.

Commissioner Goehring asked if this helps them compete the requirements for the Food Safety Modernization Act, FSMA. Daneen stated equipment and processes they put in must meet FSMA requirements as well as additional requirements for being in the food industry.

Commissioner Kroshus asked for clarification of the oats being sourced locally. Daneen provided information the oats are sources within 100 miles of the plant due to weather related conditions including hail or drought.

Commissioner Kroshus moved for approval for a five-year, one-hundred percent income tax exemption. The motion was seconded by Treasure Beadle. No discussion. Upon roll call, all voting members vote “aye”. Motion carried.

Lieutenant Governor Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.