

ASSESSMENT REFORM STUDY COMMITTEE

February 23, 2011

Administrative Center 3rd Floor, Room 3220

400 4th St. N., La Crosse WI 54601

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ralph Geary, Vicki Burke, Ray Ebert, Dan Ferries, Sharon Hampson
(County Board Members)

Kenneth Manke, (Town of Bangor Chairman), Jeff Brudos, (Town of Shelby
Administrator, alternate)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Schomburg, (Town of Hamilton Chairman)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Willett, Village of Holmen – No longer the Village Representative
Bill Brockmiller

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandy Thompson, (Town of Onalaska Supervisor), Rolly Bogert, (Town of Onalaska),
Sue Donskey, (Village of Rockland Clerk), Linda Young, (Village of Rockland President),
Marilyn Pedretti, (County Board Member), Ron Reed, (Town of Barre Chairman),
Roger Wolter, (Town of Barre Supervisor),
From the County: Jeff Bluske, (Director, Zoning, Planning & Land Information)
Pam Hollnagel, (Zoning, Planning & Land Information & Recorder)
Karl Green, (UW Extension)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Ralph Geary called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE

Jeff will contact the Village of Holmen to find out if they want to appoint someone to fill in for Mary Willett

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Burke/Ferries motioned to approve minutes, approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

DISCUSS CONTRACTS FOR LOCAL ASSESSORS (DISCUSSION HEADED BY JEFF BLUSKE)

The request for the assessor's contract information was discussed. One reason for doing this was to fulfill one of the objectives of the original resolution of this committee of comparing the costs of contract assessors vs. full time assessment district employees. The committee decided that with the information that was supplied them from the municipalities there was no way to put numbers together to make a comparison. Approximately 5 municipalities do not have contracts and there was still no reply from the Town of Campbell. The committee agreed that there is a need for contracts and the language in the contracts needs to be stiffened up. There are 2 contracts supplied by the State, one is for maintenance and the other is for a revaluation. From all the information that was received from the State the intent is to get away from revaluations, with assessing being at 100 percent every year and the contracts should reflect this. It was agreed that the contract template that was produced by La Crosse County staff will be updated by Jeff to meet the State's new requirements and will also include verbiage on how the new contract will be evaluated, along with penalties if the requirements are not met and will also include Performance Bonds. In the contract where there is the word "County" in the present contract that will be replaced with the word "Municipality" so as to be less confusing.

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE MEETING OF 2/17 GIVEN BY JEFF BLUSKE

There are several new membership groups working with the Department of Revenue:

Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association

Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association

Municipal Treasurers Association of Wisconsin

Wisconsin County Clerks Association

Wisconsin County Treasurers Association

Wisconsin Land Information Board

The work groups are looking at standards that should be met by the assessors along with standards that should be in place for the assessment rolls and the tax rolls. They are also looking for volunteers from counties and the locals to help with IPAS testing. The updated property assessment manual which will include the new requirements for assessors is almost complete and should be on the DOR's website sometime in March. The organizations representing the assessor's - Wisconsin Association of Assessing Officers (WAAO) and International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) will need to hold training to educate the assessors of the new requirements.

DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL ELEMENT TO INFORM THE PUBLIC (DISCUSSION HEADED BY JEFF BLUSKE)

It was agreed that the Department of Revenue needs to communicate and update the local town boards when the assessor is updated/notified so the boards know what the requirements are. There was discussion on how to educate the municipalities on assessor issues:

Post on the county website

Send out a newsletter

Send out newsletter in an email to all towns that have email

Inform the Wisconsin Towns Association

Inform the League of Municipalities

Put an article in the Wisconsin Counties Association's Magazine

Every municipality put this issue on their agenda every month to discuss

State should come up with graphs that explain how well the assessor met their assessing standards in every municipality every year

Karl Green volunteered to create a power point for any municipality that the assessor would forward all the sales and assessments to him like his previous power point that he presented to the committee that showed how in line the assessments are to the sales.

It was recommended that a "Know your assessment" hand out like Karl Green's "Know your tax bill" hand out should be produced

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jeff Bluske is to be contacted for future agenda items, please contact Jeff at (608) 785-9724 or

Bluske.jeff@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

1. Discussion on draft of Assessor/Appraisal Contract for Full Value Assessment
2. Report of Committee Findings and possible Resolution to County Board

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed. March 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 3220 of the County Administrative Center, 400 4th St. N., La Crosse, WI 54601.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Burke/Geary to adjourn meeting at 8:21 p.m. carried unanimously.

Approved, March 23, 2011, Pam Hollnagel, Recorder