

Equalization and Assessment Committee Minutes
April 2, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Raymond; Supervisors Collyer, Hargrave, M. Johnson, Sausville, Jenkins, Lewza, and Wood; Stephen Dorsey, County Attorney; Joanne Bosley, Real Property; Cindy Baker, Treasurer; Brian O’Conor, Auditor.

Chairman Raymond called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the minutes of the March 5th and 13th meetings were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Baker said there were three tender payments made; two in the Town of Clifton Park, and one in the Town of Malta. There were two items on the successful bidders list, no. 12 and no. 50. where the owners forfeited the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Collyer to approve three tender offers; two in the town of Clifton Park and one in the Town of Malta. Unanimous.

Ms. Raymond said the auction was very successful with over \$500,000 taken in and with the money that was paid prior to the auction the total was approximately \$800,000.

Ms. Raymond said she held an after the auction meeting where discussions took place on what possible things could be done to improve the process. She said a full report would be presented to the committee. One of the topics addressed, was cutting back on advertising, which is as much as \$9,000/yr., and going with an approach of using the legal newspapers, and the county website. Discussions took place about not allowing supervisors or department heads to bid at the auction because they are involved in the process.

Mr. O’Conor distributed copies of the auditors first quarterly report for 2012 to all committee members for their review. He said for the first quarter of 2012 the auditors office processed corrections and refunds totaling \$5,692.94. Additionally, there were 12 refunds totaling \$2,597.00 attributable to incorrect sewer charges, with the remaining \$250.77 due to assessment errors.

Ms. Raymond said the working committee reviewed a list of properties that were vacant land and as a result of that there was a feeling that if the county no longer wanted to own the property that we should move forward to see what we want to do. The Planning Office is going to take these properties and get further information and more detailed maps. She said there is a property in Clifton Park that is reforested land that is being used for a town park. There are properties in the towns of Edinburg and Day, which were bought as parkland and have not been used at all. It is expected that there will be

additional information available in the next couple of months on what can be done based on how the property was acquired originally. Mrs. Johnson asked how many properties there are. Ms. Raymond said there were approximately 5 Or 6 properties of which a number of them are reforestation properties.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Sausville the auction list was approved. Unanimously.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Collyer the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom