

Equalization and Assessment Committee Minutes  
October 7, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Collyer; Supervisors Raymond, Hargrave, Yepsen, Kinowski and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Sam Pitcherelle, Cindy Baker, Treasurer; Brian O’Conor, Auditor; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Chris Aldrich, Real Property; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Raymond the minutes of the September 17, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Dorsey said the Town of Stillwater has, by a town board resolution, made an offer to purchase property that the county acquired title to through the tax foreclosure process. The property was removed from the September 17, 2013 auction upon receipt of the town board resolution. The offer to purchase the property was in the amount of delinquent taxes, penalties and interest. Last year the Board and this committee revised the policy for towns, giving them the ability to purchase properties that the county acquired through the tax foreclosure process. As a result of those changes, the Town of Stillwater was required to send a written notice to the former owner, Vance Cohen. This notice put him on notice that the Town intends to buy the property if he does not come in to buy the property or make an offer to repurchase the property by the Board Meeting on October 15, 2013. The Town of Stillwater has provided the County Attorney with a copy of the written notice, along with an affidavit of service by mail, proving that it went out. To date the Town of Stillwater has not received a response from Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Dorsey said it used to be automatic that in the event the town was to acquire the property, and seized to use it for municipal purposes, that they would have to give it back to the county. If the county were to sell it at auction, it would reimburse the town to the extent that the sale price at auction would cover the amount the town originally paid for it. The automatic reversion back to the county was eliminated and replaced with more general conditions that the Board sets subject to the sale, which would include granting the right of first refusal to the county to repurchase the property in the event the town decided not to use the property for municipal purposes; therefore, the county would purchase the property, if they wish, in the amount the town originally paid for the property.

Mr. Dorsey said it was his understanding that the Town of Stillwater wishes to use the Cohen property to enhance the county trail system.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve the conveyance of a tax acquired parcel to the Town of Stillwater. Unanimous.**

Mr. Pitcheralle requested approval of one tender offer from the Town of Day in the amount of \$1,020.64.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Yepsen to approve one tender offer from the Town of Day in the amount \$1,020.64. Unanimous.**

Mr. Pitcheralle said there were ten successful bidders at the auction, with eleven parcels sold. The profit from the auction was \$28,195.48.

**A motion was made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to accept the successful bids from the county auction for a total of \$28,195.48. Unanimous.**

Mr. Pitcheralle distributed a copy of page three from the Policy and Procedures Handbook noting a change that needed to be made stating that the County Treasurer's office continues to collect delinquent school and village taxes until December 15<sup>th</sup>, instead of December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to approve a change to the Policy and Procedures Handbook to read as follows: The County Treasurer's office continues to collect delinquent school and village taxes until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)**

Mr. O'Connor distributed the third quarter report from the Auditor's Office stating that the office did not approve any corrections or refunds for the third quarter of this year. He said in reviewing past years the third quarter corrections and refunds have, historically, been few during this time period.

**A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve the third quarter refund and corrections report from the County Auditor. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom