

Equalization and Assessment Committee Minutes  
February 11, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Collyer; Supervisors Wood, Jenkins, and Lunde; Ryan Moore, Deputy Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Cindy Baker, Treasurer; Joanne Bosley, Chris Aldrich, Real Property; Gary Bowitch, Bowitch & Coffey, LLC.; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mrs. Bosley requested approval of a correction on a 2015 tax bill in the Town of Wilton for a total corrected tax of \$1,578.00. She said the parcel should only have one sewer unit, but 14 sewer units were placed on file in error.

**A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a correction to a 2015 tax bill in the Town of Wilton for a total corrected tax of \$1,578.00. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Baker requested approval of two tender offers, one in the Town of Stillwater and one in the Town of Waterford, for a total of \$6,962.97.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to approve tender offers from the towns of Stillwater and Waterford for a total of \$6,962.97. Unanimous.**

Mr. Dorsey said the successful bidder on the McAuliffe Property in the Town of Greenfield has refused to pay the back taxes. A letter was sent from Ms. Bieganski's Attorney stating the reasons why. Mr. Dorsey is requesting that the committee disapprove the sale of the property and refund the lien bidders deposit of \$11,300, and put the property on the March 17, auction list.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Jenkins to disapprove the auction sale of the McAuliffe property in the Town of Greenfield and refunding the successful bidders deposit of \$11,300. Unanimous.**

Mr. Dorsey said the county foreclosed on a parcel in the Town of Waterford, and the Waterford Capital Resource Corporation is interested in a pre-auction acquisition of the property. He said the taxes that will be due by the end of February are \$23,999.43, which would be the sale price as well. In accordance with the policy, the CRC would be required to send a notice to the former owner, giving them ten days advance notice that the CRC has submitted an offer to purchase the property, and giving them an opportunity to make a tender offer.

**A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Lunde to approve the conveyance of a tax acquired parcel in the town of Waterford to the Waterford Capital Resource Corporation for a total sum of \$23,999.43. Unanimous.**

Mr. Bowitch gave a brief update with regard to the Homestead Infirmary in the Town of Providence and distributed an outline of what actions have taken place and what he proposes for the future.

Mr. Bowitch recommended that the County make a formal notification to the Department of Environmental Conservation of the known releases of asbestos to the environment. He said such notice should trigger a DEC investigation, which, in turn, could lead to a potential cleanup using state or federal funds. Mr. Bowitch stated that he was unaware of any situation where the DEC used state cleanup funds to address asbestos contamination; however, USEPA has often used federal superfund money to address asbestos contamination. He said in his opinion, the uncontained and ongoing releases of asbestos from the former infirmary building present such a risk, and thus the USEPA may address the problem.

Mr. Bowitch said if the USEPA does decide to get involved, he would request that they not only try to remove the asbestos contamination on the ground surrounding the building, but to also remove any on-going source of asbestos still remaining inside the building.

In closing, Mr. Bowitch said he did not think that getting the DEC and USEPA involved with the site would trigger any broader investigation or cleanup into the other potential environmental conditions.

**A motion was made by Mr. Lunde, seconded by Mr. Wood authorizing Mr. Bowitch to move forward with a letter to DEC. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)**

**On a motion made by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Lunde, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom