

ASSESSMENT REFORM STUDY COMMITTEE

March 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), Richard Schomburg, (Town of Hamilton
Chairman), Jeff Brudos, (Town of Shelby Administrator, alternate)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Bill Brockmiller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary Willett, Village of Holmen – No longer the Village Representative

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 23, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Ferries/Geary motioned to approve minutes, approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE

Village of Holmen will not fill Mary Willett's position until new Village Administrator's position is filled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

DISCUSS DRAFT OF ASSESSOR/APPRaisal CONTRACT FOR FULL VALUE ASSESSMENT (DISCUSSION HEADED BY JEFF BLUSKE)

The contract had the "County Language" replaced with "Municipality" on the document. The language in the entire contract was reviewed for everyone and the following is a list of the categories and discussion was held for each section:

Section 1: General Information, Schedule of Events, and Proposal Submission

Section 2: Terms and Conditions

Section 3: Sustainability

Section 4: Scope of Work

Section 5: Assessor Compensation

Section 6: Proposal Submittal

Section 7: Evaluations of Proposals

Question was raised whether the contract should require assessing within 10% of full value on all major classes and all major classes be required to be within 10% of each other. Discussion that no. 8 under Section 4 –Scope of Work be changed to add (for full value) at the end of the sentence to help clarify the full value assessment on properties. Jeff Bluske is to work with Jeff Brudos to reword this section to clarify this. It was decided that the contract probably covers 95 % of issues and the committee would like to see the municipalities use this contract as a "minimum" requirement and the municipalities can make the contract "stricter" if so desired.

Question was raised on Section 3.1 Sustainability and the recovery and continuity of the assessing records since all municipalities might not have a plan or the capability as mentioned in the contract. Jeff Bluske is to work on the wording of this section.

There was discussion on requiring a performance bond be put in the contract language and it should be paid for by the assessor and put in the contract under Section 4.

The ARSC committee is not going to oversee any municipality's assessing – that is the municipality's responsibility.

A copy of the State's Assessor Certification form is to be distributed with the final Report of Assessment Reform Study Committee when distributed.

DISCUSS DRAFT REPORT ON COMMITTEE FINDINGS (DISCUSSION HEADED BY JEFF BLUSKE)

Entire draft report of assessment reform study committee was read by Jeff Bluske and changes to the report were made during the reading. This committee report states why the committee was formed and suggests that municipalities work together on creating consortiums or assessment districts.

Question was raised when will the State have the new statewide system up and running and the new software be available. The State is requiring all assessment submittals be electronic by the year 2013. The committee was informed by Corporation Counsel that the committee could not mandate the municipalities sign/form a collaboration agreement it has to be voluntary. It was decided by the committee that this report along with its attachments; the listing of all the assessors assessing in La Crosse County and the report of the assessor contract replies be distributed to all municipalities asking for collaboration between the units of government. The spreadsheet of the assessor contract replies though not complete illustrates that variation does exist between municipalities and should be helpful to elected officials. Ralph Geary suggests that it would be helpful if the expiration dates of the contracts were synchronized to help facilitate assessment consortiums. Ralph Geary is to sign final report following Jeff Bluske's changes.

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.

No future agenda items – committee will only meet as needed.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

No meeting set up – committee will only meet as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Geary/Hampson to adjourn meeting at 8:58 p.m. carried unanimously.

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting.

Pam Hollnagel, Recorder