

Minutes of the Board of Assessors  
Meeting of December 22, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Assessors was held on Thursday, December 22, 2005 in Room 208 at City Hall. Chair Marylou Blaisdell, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Members Present

Marylou Blaisdell      Dominic D'Antoni      Kevin Moriarty

Assessing Staff Present

Angelo Marino      Gary Turgiss      Bob Lakeman      Douglas Dame      Cheryl Walley

Minutes of the Meeting:

MOTION BY Dominic D'Antoni to accept the minutes of the meeting held December 9, 2005.

SECONDED BY Marylou Blaisdell.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

Abatement Requests Presented:

See attached printout for approvals/denials.

Old Business:

Kevin Moriarty asked about the status of the 2004 abatement filed on 6 Fireside Circle for which the taxpayer appeared before the Board last spring. Chief Assessor Angelo Marino advised he will check with Residential Appraiser Gary Turgiss on this and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Dominic D'Antoni asked about the IRS booklet sent to the Board members by a taxpayer. Chief Assessor Angelo Marino advised he did not know anything about it and will look into it and get back to the Board.

Chief Assessor Angelo Marino discussed a letter addressed to him and Tax Collector David Fredette from a taxpayer. He advised the Board that the taxpayer had the elderly exemption removed because his assets exceeded the amount allowed. This taxpayer then transferred the property to his daughter and has also had the veteran's credit removed due to the fact that he, the veteran, no longer had an interest in the property, which is required by State law. In a conversation Mr. Marino had with the taxpayer on the phone, he tried to explain this. The taxpayer would not listen and therefore still does not understand why this was done.

The Board began their continued discussion regarding the 2005 charitable exemption of the Conway Ice Arena. Kevin Moriarty asked for feedback from Chief Assessor Angelo Marino regarding Conway's application. Mr. Marino said he thinks that they are trying to fill a void for a group in the City that the City could not do itself. He said he feels that with the exception of the leased areas, it would be a good thing to give them the exemption. They have made a payment to youth groups and they will continue with that. He said in his opinion they are even more of a charity than the Spartans because they do not have family members on the payroll. Dominic D'Antoni stated that his feeling is that as of now they should not be exempt. They have donated about \$15-16,000 and now are saying they should receive a charitable exemption. The taxpayers are unknowingly paying the taxes for this Arena. Mr. Marino explained that he doesn't think the magnitude of the donation is what we need to look at. They are doing what they can. Mr. D'Antoni said the only way this can be approved is through the Board of Alderman. He said in his opinion, this does not qualify for a charitable exemption and it would not hold up in Court as a charitable exemption. Mr. Marino noted that this is a not-for-profit business. Mr. D'Antoni said it has to be, in order to pay the mortgage. Mr. Marino said that if the City was to do this,

they would have to front a bond for \$1,000,000. Chair Blaisdell noted that other charities, one of which she is treasurer, have mortgages on properties owned, as well as other operating expenses.

Kevin Moriarty said he believes the City is benefiting from the situation, but this is definitely putting pressure on this Board. He said he does not think this belongs on our agenda, but for right now it is on our plate so we must address it. Chair Blaisdell asked Mr. Marino if the Board can send a letter to the Board of Aldermen that states we feel this is not something that should come under this Board and we want to release it to them for a decision. Mr. Marino said he will talk to Corporation Counsel and draft something to send to the Board of Aldermen. If you feel this should be at that level, we need to request they modify the lease and clarify how the property taxes will be handled. Mr. D'Antoni said he wouldn't mind if they paid a payment in lieu of taxes where they are paying for some of the city services they are being provided currently for free.

**MOTION BY** Kevin Moriarty to approve the 2005 charitable exemption for the Conway Ice Arena.

**SECONDED BY** Marylou Blaisdell.

**ABSTAINED BY:** Dominic D'Antoni

**MOTION CARRIED**

**The following motion was then made:**

**MOTION BY** Marylou Blaisdell to request Chief Assessor Angelo Marino talk to Corporation Counsel to review how we turn this situation over to the Board of Aldermen and report back to us at the next meeting.

**SECONDED BY** Kevin Moriarty.

**MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**MOTION BY** Marylou Blaisdell to adjourn at 9:55 AM.

**SECONDED BY** Dominic D'Antoni

**MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Transcribed by  
Cheryl Walley  
Department Coordinator