

**Minutes of the Board of Assessors  
Meeting of August 31, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Assessors was held on Thursday, August 31, 2006 in the Auditorium at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 8:09 AM by Chair, Marylou Blaisdell.

**Members Present**

Marylou Blaisdell	Kevin Moriarty	Dominic D'Antoni
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**Assessing Staff Present**

Angelo Marino	Robert Lakeman	Douglas Dame
Greg Turgiss	Gary Turgiss	Cheryl Walley

The Board members each expressed their sympathy on the passing of Ms. Jeanne Dunfey, Supervisor of Customer Service/Data Management and Chair Blaisdell asked how things are going in the office. Chief Assessor Angelo Marino advised that staff is handling things as well as can be expected. He made reference to a letter remembering Ms. Dunfey as a dedicated city employee and valuable aide, which was submitted by Chair Blaisdell in today's Editorial section of the Nashua Telegraph and commented that it was a very nice letter.

**Minutes of the Meeting:**

Minutes for the meeting held on August 10, 2006 were approved unanimously.

**Abatement Requests Presented:**

Approvals/denials are available in the Assessor's Office. Regarding some of the assessments which were lowered by adjusting the neighborhood code, Mr. Kevin Moriarty expressed concern with using the neighborhood code to adjust the assessment. Mr. Marino explained he wants to avoid the proliferation of neighborhoods because the City already has an enormous amount. Residential Appraiser Gary Turgiss noted that there are some developments in the City that have so many variety of styles in the units, that every time an update is done on assessments he needs to check on those areas first to see if market adjustments are necessary. Commercial Appraiser Robert Lakeman advised that what they are trying to avoid is mistakes of the past. He explained that by making adjustments in ways that not only make sense today but will make sense tomorrow we will avoid having to continually adjust the same properties when updates are done.

**Staff Items:**

Mr. Marino advised there are approximately 200 residential abatements remaining and the Assessing Department will not be addressing any more abatements for 2005 unless they appeal or unless there are extenuating circumstances. He advised that the assessments may be changed for 2006 but if they have not appealed there will be no abatement processed for 2005. Mr. Lakeman said we prioritized based on the ones that we felt were really justified in filing and the ones that were left had a narrow difference between value and assessment. He said he thinks they have addressed the ones that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Moriarty said he feels the Assessing Department has done a great job but asked why can't an exception be made and all of the remaining abatements addressed whether or not an appeal is filed. Mr. Marino explained that the City would really be setting a precedent that shouldn't be set. It has always been a policy that the taxpayer has to appeal. These abatements have already been denied and now the emphasis is on the taxpayer. It is not possible given resources to continue working on these. We need to begin working on sales qualifications and building permits. Chair Blaisdell clarified that the building permit inspections have not been completed yet. Mr. Gary Turgiss advised that we worked on the building permits until April but then we stopped to begin working on the abatements. Mr. Moriarty stated that he understands there is not enough staff but maybe the work on these abatements can continue another month or so. Mr. Marino replied that he

thinks that what we are doing is a good compromise, because if people appeal that gives us the opportunity to address it for 2005. If they do not appeal, we will still address it for 2006.

Chair Blaisdell clarified that those that remain will have adjustments for 2006. Mr. Marino confirmed that if a change is warranted it will be made. Mr. Dominic D'Antoni stated he believes State law does not give us an option to set a precedent. He stated he believes that State law is specific in that a taxpayer must appeal by September 1 to continue to have their abatement considered for the previous tax year. Chair Blaisdell asked if those 200 residential abatements which are remaining will have a major impact if the assessment is adjusted. Mr. Gary Turgiss answered that there may be one or two that slipped through the crack but for the most part there will be only minor assessment differences. Mr. Marino said that on those that we know the data is different than what actually exists, we will try to correct as rapidly as possible because we do not want to have bad data.

Chair Blaisdell said she finds it interesting that here we are, the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, and no aldermen are here to see what transpires. She continued that on behalf of the Assessing Department, she feels it is our right to ask an elected official if we are doing something wrong he should come and discuss the issues with us first. Referring to a draft of a letter she wrote to Alderman Flynn on behalf of the Board, she stated she would like it mailed to Alderman Flynn and copied to Mayor Streeter and the President of the Board of Aldermen, David Rootovich. Mr. D'Antoni asked Mr. Marino what his feelings are with regards to this letter. Mr. Marino replied he believes educating Alderman Flynn should be the first thing. In previous years when dealing with the Nashua Taxpayers Association (NTA) we said come on in and let's meet, let's talk and I will show you what I am all about. Chair Blaisdell asked if Mr. Marino has invited Alderman Flynn to talk Mr. Marino advised not specifically to talk about this issue, but he will do that anyway because we will all be better off if we educate them. Chair Blaisdell commented that she does not believe he is being fair to the Assessing Department and she does not think it is right to grandstand without understanding what he is talking about. Once he understands it, fine, we will address those issues, but he needs to come to the table and address it.

The Board agreed to revert to the original schedule of meetings and hold the next meeting as scheduled on September 14, 2006 here in the Auditorium. Chair Marylou Blaisdell asked if anyone was opposed to holding the meetings at 8 AM on a permanent basis. With no one opposing, the Board concurred that future Board of Assessor meetings will be scheduled for 8 AM.

**MOTION BY** Dominic D'Antoni to adjourn at 9:15 AM.

**SECONDED BY** Marylou Blaisdell.

**MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Transcribed by  
Cheryl Walley  
Department Coordinator