

**BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF REVIEW
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
May 6, 2003**

Pursuant to due call and published notice, the Board of Review of the City of Bemidji met at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2003 for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment of properties within city limits of the City of Bemidji for the year of 2003. Chairman Richard Lehmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

Upon roll call the following Board Members were declared present: Hellquist, Lehmann, Downs, Zachman. Absent: Meuers, Johnson, Erickson.

Assessor Skerik provided a portfolio of recent sales in all areas of the City, briefly explained the system used to establish the Estimated Market Value throughout the City, and discussed legislative activities relative to property valuation.

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY OWNERS APPEARED:

Ida Bahr Jacobson, 3545 W. Birch Avenue, expressed concerns because her valuation increased from \$46,800 in 2002 to \$57,700 in 2003. She questioned the reason for the increase as there have been no recent improvements. Assessor Skerik agreed to review the property and report back to the board.

Barbara Milks, 1125 Rice Avenue NW, expressed concerns because her vacant lot was valued at \$700 in 2002 and increased to \$5,700 in 2003. She noted that the lot is a designated wetland and can never be used for anything else. She also questioned the valuation of the parcel with her home which increased from \$32,600 in 2002 to \$40,900 in 2003. Assessor Skerik agreed that the vacant lot may need some adjustment and agreed to look at her other parcel as well.

Larry Hadrava, 410 America Avenue, complained of a 26% increase on his parcel from \$47,600 in 2002 to \$60,100 in 2003. He noted the parcel is 37 feet wide and there have been no improvements on the home – only maintenance and upkeep. Assessor Skerik made an appointment with Hadrava to review the parcel.

Kermit/Mary Bjerke, 1411 Irvine Avenue, noted they paid \$28,000 for the home at 1411 Irvine. In 2002 it was valued at \$36,900 and increased to \$51,800 in 2003. Their daughter and grandchildren live in the home, which is in a state of disrepair. Assessor Skerik suggested that both he and the City Building Official visit the home for further review.

OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

Assessor Skerik provided a list of persons who were unable to attend the meeting but had concerns about their valuations. He agreed to review those complaints and report back to the board.

ADJOURN

Based on the number of unresolved issues and the need for further review by the assessor, motion by Downs, second by Hellquist, to recess and continue the hearing to May 19, 2003 at 6:30 PM. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Sherman, City Clerk