

**BEMIDJI CITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF REVIEW
May 5, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and published notice, the Board of Review of the City of Bemidji met at City Hall at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment of properties within city limits of the City of Bemidji for the year of 2015. Vice Chair Roger Hellquist called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Upon roll call, the following Board Members were declared present: Meehlhause, Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson, Larson, Olson arrived at 5:20 p.m. Absent: Albrecht

City Staff: City Manager Nate Mathews, City Attorney Al Felix, City Clerk Kay Murphy
Beltrami County Assessor's Office: Joe Skerik, Debbie Tuck, Gregg Swartwoudt

PRESENTATION BY ASSESSOR

County Assessor Joe Skerik provided a brief overview of the system used to establish the Estimated Market Value throughout the City. Skerik stated that residential values in the City were mostly the same. There were 137 residential sales resulting in a median ratio of 93.7%. He noted that there were 9 commercial sales which had a median ratio of 94.71%. He stated that downtown commercial has been re-evaluated as well as apartments which resulted in some adjustments. He stated that staff will be reviewing apartments in the future.

Skerik stated that new construction of taxable property in the City was \$6,516,100 down from \$9,673,800 (2014) but still up from \$4,169,700 the previous year (2013). County-wide new construction was down 1% to \$29,989,000 (2015).

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY OWNER APPEARED:

Jim Hess, 3601 Birchmont Drive NE, stated that since his property has been annexed the value of his home has increased dramatically. He asked that it be re-examined. He stated he has had multiple conversations with the Assessor's office with little impact. He asked that he be treated fairly and stated that he is paying a lot of taxes for "bare minimum services".

Skerik responded that he has offered to review Dr. Hess' property as his staff needs to go into the home. Skerik stated that the offer is still available. He further stated that one minor adjustment lowering the value of Dr. Hess' property value has been made. The current value of the property is \$495,800.

Hellquist asked Dr. Hess if he would take the County Assessor's office up on their offer to re-evaluate his home. Dr. Hess refused and stated that nothing has changed at the home.

Skerik stated that he could not recommend any changes to Dr. Hess' property.

OTHER ADJUSTMENT

Skerik recommended the Council approve the following adjustment for property owner who has contacted the Assessor office for parcel: 80.000380.00 - reduction of \$23,500.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Erickson, accepting the 2015 assessments as adjusted. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk