

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 12/21/2015
Re: City Manager's Report

1. Bids were open on December 10, 2015 for tax deeded properties. Tyler Haynes was the successful bidder on 677 King Street and Lindsay Barron successfully bid on 1764 Hutchins Street. Congratulations to these new homeowners. Bid sheets are attached.
2. Eric Kaminsky has been notified that the annual Moose Survey will begin January 5 and go on for ten days or until 30 to 40 moose are collared. NH Fish and Game will include the information gathered in their 2016 Moose Assessment Report. The Berlin Airport is the base of operations which results in fuel sales.
3. Secretary of State William Gardner announced that the date of the upcoming Presidential Primary Election is February 9, 2016
4. Through my participation on the Assessing Standards Board I have been named a member of a sub-committee that has been tasked with deriving method(s) to increase uniformity and consistency in telecommunications (pole and conduit) property assessments. Attached is a draft letter that was sent from the ASB to Senate President Chuck Morse and Speaker of the House Shawn Jasper. The letter outlines the intended work of the sub-committee. The sub-committee will be meeting approximately every two weeks for the next couple of months.
5. Happy Holidays!!! See you all on January 4, 2016.

Len Gerzon, ASB Chairman

December 8, 2015

Senate President Chuck Morse

Speaker of the House Rep. Shawn Jasper

Dear Sirs:

The NH Assessing Standards Board HB 547 subcommittee has completed its study regarding the issues entailed in telecom property assessment. An extensive six month study conducted by Sub-committee Chairman Betsey Patten and her team has been concluded. The work included several official inquiries to a selected sampling of towns, of which all but a few promptly and fully complied in response to the committee's aggressive timetable objective to advise the legislature in December of this year. In November, the full ASB has deliberated and reached the following conclusions for your consideration:

1. The ASB has concluded that there is a property tax issue regarding the uniformity and consistency of telecommunications assessments which may be actionable by the legislature.
2. The ASB has discussed a conceptual plan to address the problem of assessment uniformity by exploring the establishment by the ASB of cost model parameters and standards for poles, conduits, and real estate rights currently deemed taxable by NH statute.
3. The ASB would like to continue to work on its recommendations for a few more months in order to propose a technically derived methodology as part of a possible legislative solution.

On behalf of the ASB, we wish to thank the Senate and House leadership for their understanding and patience in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Len Gerzon, Chairman of the Assessing Standards Board

cc. Sen. David Boutin

cc. Rep. Patrick Abrami

cc. Betsey Patten, Sub-committee Chairman

cc. Stephen Hamilton, NH DRA

cc. Robert Gagne, Vice-chairman of the Assessing Standards Board