MINUTES OF THE
ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD
SUB-COMMITTEE

Approved as Written

DATE: October 29, 2015
TIME: 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Legislative Office Building – Room 304, 107 North Main Street, Concord NH

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Betsey Patten, Public Member, Chairman
Joseph Lessard, NHAAO, Towns >3,000
Eric Stohl, Municipal Official, Towns <3,000
Representative Peter Schmidt
Representative Patrick Abrami
Representative Mark Proulx
Representative Patty Lovejoy

MEMBERS of the PUBLIC:
Kathy Temchack, City of Concord Assessing
George Sansoucy
Meg Nelson, Sulloway & Hollis
Ellen Scarponi, Fairpoint
Maura Weston, Weston & Assoc.
Len Gerzon, ASB
Teresa Rosenberger, NHTA
Kevin O’Quinn, Fairpoint
Karen Hanks, NHEC
Scott Dickman, DRA
Meredith….., Governor’s Office
Cindy Brown, BTLA
Robert J. Gagne, Manchester
David Cornell, NHDRA
Keen Wong, NHDRA (intern)
Bill Stafford, Granite State Tele.
Stephan Hamilton, NHDRA
Scott Brooks, TDS Telecom
Michael Ladam, NHPUC
Representative Peter J. Spanos
Cordell A. Johnson, NHMA

*** There were issues with the recorder; therefore there is no taped recording of the minutes for 10/29/2015. ***

Chairman Patten convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions followed.

Documents Received:
George Hildum and George Sansoucy submitted requested material. Mr. Hildum’s was submitted in writing. Mr. Sansoucy’s was rather lengthy so was submitted via email. Mr. David Cornell had perused Mr. Sansoucy’s report and a discussion followed with questions and answers regarding the findings for these two reports.

Information not Received:
Several contractors did not complete or declined to submit requested information. Representative Abrami brought up whether this is public information. Chairman Patten did not feel this would be clarified as “work product”. Representative Lovejoy said she was unfamiliar with ASB authority but felt recommendations would
be better coming from ASB than Legislature. Mr. Eric Stohl said the ASB has the authority to make rules and quoted RSA 21-J:14-b.1-a. Chairman Patten advised that Senator Boutin requested a decision by December 1st. Representative Abrami advised meeting with the full assessor’s board as there are no guidelines to value a pole and there needs to be guidelines/rules. Mr. Stohl advised if ASB is to handle this, he would like Representative Abrami to sit in. Representative Abrami accepted the invitation. Mr. Joe Lessard advised there were many lawsuits and that there are problems in how the telecommunications property is assessed. He felt that the lawsuit should continue until they are done and then maybe the problem with the system can be seen more clearly; he did not feel that Legislation or ASB should get involved. Chairman Patten mentioned the wide range ($107 - $2100). Mr. Kevin O’Quinn mentioned that there was a 2010 Appeal ruling in Supreme Court regarding equal protection (Docket Number 2015-0067). Ms. Kathy Temchack advised equal protection 2000 – 2010. Chairman Patten cited 20150067. Representative Lovejoy said that if the ASB is not going to come up with parameters then Legislature should try. Representative Abrami advised that poles and conduits are treated as real property and Legislature created a problem when they decided to tax poles. He agreed with Representative Lovejoy that Legislature will try if ASB did not. Mr. Stohl moved that this matter be turned over to the full ASB to remedy the wide range of pole values. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lessard also suggested that DRA go through USPAP of those towns, not the contractors, that did not send in the information requested for the deep dive.

Chairman Patten adjourned the meeting at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McGill
NH Department of Revenue Administration – Municipal and Property Division

Documentation relative to the Assessing Standards Board may be submitted, requested or reviewed by:

Telephone: (603) 230-5967
Facsimile: (603) 230-5947
Web: www.revenue.nh.gov
E-mail: asb@dra.nh.gov

In person at:
109 Pleasant Street, Concord

In writing to:
NH Department of Revenue
Assessing Standards Board
PO Box 487
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