

Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee

Meeting with the Lamoine Board of Assessors

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| <u>Name of Group:</u> | Board of Assessors |
| <u>Date of Meeting:</u> | January 6, 2016 |
| <u>Chair or contact person:</u> | Jane Fowler, Chair |
| <u>Phone number:</u> | 667-5147 |
| <u>Number of people attending:</u> | Jane Fowler, Terry Towne and Mike Jordan |
| LCPC: | Fred Stocking, Mike Jordan, & Kathie Gaianguest |

Focus or primary responsibility of group: Valuation of property in Lamoine for the purposes of taxation.

Work of this group in actively planning for the future: Primarily training with respect to State law and methods of property valuation. The active work of the Assessors relates to values at any given time.

Expressed concerns of group relating to focus or primary responsibility: Pressure on volunteer assessors and the drive towards computerization. Aging of current Assessors and perceived unwillingness of younger people to undergo sufficient training to do the job. Assessors go to training school during the first week of August. Volunteers have trouble staying on top of changes in the law, such as the Tree Growth Tax law changes of a few years ago. Many towns are going to professional assessors with a lay board supervising. With increasing development and complexity there are stresses on a town's code enforcement staff. Similar to the situation with volunteer Assessors, it becomes increasingly difficult to find folks with proper training for a part-time code enforcement position.

Some towns have dealt with these twin pressures by hiring a combine Assessor Code Enforcement Officer as a full-time position. This in turn might put pressure on town hall capability as full-time paid staff increases.

Expressed concerns of individuals on matters not related to focus or primary responsibility: There is a concern that the town is running significantly on the volunteer energy of the middle aged and healthy elderly. As this cohort thins out due to death and infirmity, the Town may have considerable difficulty replacing its energy, commitment and acquired expertise.

Interesting facts/ideas that came out of the meeting: The town's valuation has stayed close enough to the state valuation. The last time the town had to pay for a comprehensive revaluation was 1993.

Basic statistics of the Assessors:

| Category | Year: 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Mil rate | 9.3 | 9.3 | 10.3 | 10.10 | 10.10 |
| Tax Commitment | \$2,384k | \$2380k | \$2,643k | \$2616k | 2616.7k |
| State Valuation | \$273,750k | \$267,500k | \$261,850k | \$255,100k | \$263,050k |

Follow up: None noted