

IT / EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE

Martin D. Marshall

Administrator

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MEMBERS

Chris Wittenbach, Terry Collins, Dawn Bales

MEETING LOCATION

Committee Room, 2nd Floor
Old Courthouse, 301 N. Main Street, Adrian, MI

MINUTES: Thursday, January 3, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Wittenbach, Bales, and Collins, Stimpson

ALSO PRESENT: Matt Richardson, Eric Miller, Shelly DeLong, Martin Marshall, Marilyn Woods, Roxann Holloway, Elizabeth Ellison, and Rebecca Borton

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Collins, supported by Bales, to approve the minutes of the December 2018 meeting. Motion carried.

II. Information Technology

- A. Departments:** Roxann Holloway commended the IT Department for their work during the recent election.
- B. IT Report:** Matt Richardson reported that email servers have been purchased and are to be scheduled for installation, the JIS Cloud service will be set up soon, and he will be presenting a couple of Capital Improvement project requests next month.

III. Equalization

- A. Director report:** Shelly DeLong reported that the Equalization Department has finalized and submitted studies to the State, and field work continues on the jurisdictions assessed by the County.
- B. City of Adrian request:** Marty Marshall explained that Lowe's has filed an appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal challenging the 2017 and 2018 assessments levied.

The appeal methodology used has been discredited in other states but continues to be a challenge before the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Many taxing authorities benefit from the valuation set by a local assessor but only the assessment jurisdiction, the city or township, bears the burden of defending an appeal. The City of Adrian has requested financial assistance in defense of the Lowe's appeal.

Marty recommended that the County cover 1/3 of the attorney fees and appraisal costs and 100% of the review appraisal fees.

Motion by Collins, supported by Bales, to recommend supporting the City of Adrian in the Lowe's appeal in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 without subsequent authorization with the County covering 1/3 of attorney and appraisal fees and 100% of review appraisal fees. Motion carried.

IV. Updates / Other Business: New fiber lines have been run to the jail and the judicial building.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Bales, seconded by Collins, to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Motion carried.

MDM/rdb