

**Maine Prairie Township  
Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting  
April 24, 2018 4:30 p.m.**

Present: Chair Kuechle, Supervisor Loewen, Supervisor Wicker, Deputy Clerk Robinson, Senior Appraiser Connor Rausch, Stearns County Assessor Jeff Johnson, Mark Hesse, Douglas Anderson, Charles Craft, Sam Craft and Dennis Kuseske

Chair Kuechle called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the pledge to the flag.

Jeff Johnson, Stearns County Assessor, and Connor Rausch, Stearns County Senior Appraiser advised the Board that for the 2018 assessment there were a total of 21 residential/seasonal sales used in the state study which uses sales between October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. The sales during this time period indicated an increase in market value for residential and seasonal properties. The total estimated market value for Maine Prairie Township is \$339,363,900 which is an increase of 6.11% from the 2017 estimated market value. Total new construction in the Township was \$3,155,100.

Average market value changes for properties in Maine Prairie Township for the 2018 assessment for taxes payable in 2019 are as follows:

- |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Residential/Off Water            | 10% - 15% |
| • Residential/On Water             |           |
| • Pearl Lake                       | 1% - 3%   |
| • School Section Lake              | 1% - 3%   |
| • Carnelian Lake                   | 1% - 3%   |
| • Goodners Lake                    | 1% - 3%   |
| • Murray Lake                      | 1% - 3%   |
| • Agricultural – Market Value      | 0% - 1%   |
| • Agricultural – Green Acres Value | 0% - 1%   |
| • Commercial/Industrial            | 2% - 5%   |

Resident Mark Hesse questioned the increased market value of his 40 acre parcel, parcel id 20.11577.0000. Mr. Rausch advised the Board that he had viewed the property and his recommendation was to lower the 2018 assessed value from \$236,200 to \$219,200 based on characteristics, demographics and quality of home. Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to accept Mr. Rausch's recommendation to lower the value of this property from \$236,200 to \$219,200. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board asked Assessor Johnson for an explanation of the P.I.L.T. (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program. This program is when the Federal Government makes payments to State Governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable public lands. The State Government then uses a formula to calculate payment to the Township based on the number of acres of non-taxable public land within the Township. The Department of Interior has administrative responsibility over the PILT program. Assessor Johnson will send Clerk Hunt an explanation of how the County/State distributes the payments to the Township's that have tax-exempt land within their boundaries.

Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to adjourn the 2018 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting at 5:15 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Robinson  
Deputy Clerk