

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMES CONFERENCE BOARD**

AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

REGULAR MEETING OF THE AMES CONFERENCE BOARD

The Regular Meeting of the Ames Conference Board was called to order by Chairman John Haila at 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2023. Present from the Ames City Council were Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Gloria Betcher, Tim Gartin, Rachel Junck, Amber Corrieri, and Anita Collins via Zoom. Linda Murken, Lisa Heddens, and Latifah Faisal represented the Story County Board of Supervisors. Kelly Winfrey represented the Ames Community School District Board of Directors and Joe Anderson the Nevada Community School District Board of Directors. The Gilbert and United Community School District Boards of Directors were not represented.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2023: Moved by Heddens, seconded by Junck, to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2023, meeting of the Ames Conference Board.

Vote on Motion 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE AMES CITY ASSESSOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2023/2024: City Assessor Shari Plagge stated that the budget was posted within the timeline mandated by the state. She also stated that she had spoken with the City of Ames Financial Office about if changes were necessary to the budget due to the Department of Management finding an error in budgets and that since the City Assessor's Office was not at the statutory limit there was no need to republish the budget.

No members of the public spoke to the Conference Board regarding the budget and the hearing was closed. Motioned by Betcher, seconded by Winfrey to approve the proposed budget as published.

Vote on Motion 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON BOARD OF REVIEW VACANCY TERM ENDING 12/31/2026: Haila asked if there was anything that Plagge wanted to share because he has been totally consumed with property tax legislation and that this had fallen through the cracks. He stated that he was open for a candidate to be put forth and that a quick meeting of the Conference Board would be necessary to appoint a new member.

Plagge stated there were two classes for the Board of Review but that one is full. She also stated that, if necessary, it would be possible to train a new member without sending them to a class.

Murken asked about the requirements for a new member. Plagge stated that someone in construction or architecture would be helpful. She explained that there is already a farmer present and someone with real estate experience so there was no need to fill those needs. She also stated that as long as prospective Board of Review members were a citizen of the city and had an idea what property was being bought and sold for and what market value is, the Board would be fine.

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Murken asked about potential conflicts. Plagge stated that Conference Board members could not be Board of Review members, and neither could people outside of the city limits. She stated that the Board is gender balanced so that was not an issue.

Haila stated that having an architect. Murken asked about reaching out to ISU architecture college and there was a discussion about needing a practicing architect.

No Motion to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Review was made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Plagge stated that the case with 201 Gray ETA ALUMNI CORPORATION OF ALPHA GAMMA RHO was dismissed after seeking a settlement and being rejected. Plagge also stated that there are five cases where settlements are being negotiated. She also stated that two of those cases had been converted from condos to apartments, two were still condos, and one was a strip mall. Plagge stated that there were seven cases left to go before the Property Assessment Appeal Board or District court after the five settlements were concluded.

Plagge indicated that one of the two temporary employees had been hired on as a full time employee, mirroring what Dan Boberg does in the office. She also stated that she had been working with the City of Ames Human Resources department to try and get a new temporary employee to fill the vacancy and to hire a secretary for the Board of Review. She stated that there would be an attempt to fill the Deputy Assessor position.

Plagge stated that assessment notices were due to go to the printer on March 20, 2023, along with a letter to explain the current status of the market and general trends in real estate. She stated that the increases in assessed values were not specific to Ames and were occurring across the entire state. She stated that commercial values would be increasing anywhere from 17 to 30 percent and residential would be approximately 30 percent. She indicated that reviews were still occurring and that no values would be ready until they were sent to the printer.

She explained that the letter would be sent to all Conference Board entities so that they can see the document and have the information presented on it. She also indicated that there would be educational meetings on March 29, 2023, open for all City of Ames staff, Board of Review and Conference Board members, and anyone else that would like to attend so that they could see what the increases would look like and how it would affect taxable value.

Gartin asked if there were any links or resources for people to get information about how taxes are done in Iowa. Plagge stated that all information on the City Assessor website would be updated so that people could find it.

Haila asked if other Assessors were taking steps to get information to the public. Plagge stated that there would be public outreach with papers, radio stations, and tv stations. She stated that educating people was an integral part of the process. She further indicated that notices would be sent for every parcel in the city and that that would be the practice going forward.

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Haila asked how Conference Board members should proceed if they were contacted by the public. Plagge stated that she would want them to forward any questions to the Assessor's Office as there are too many variables to give a simple answer, and that directing them to the Assessor's Office would make things easier.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was brought forward.

CONFERENCE BOARD COMMENTS: No comments were made by any party of the Conference Board.

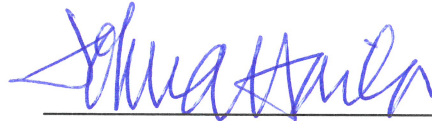
ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Winfrey, seconded by Gartin, to adjourn the Ames Conference Board Meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Vote on Motion 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.



Shari Plagge, Ames City Assessor &

Conference Board Clerk



John A. Haila, Conference Board Chairman