

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

AMES, IOWA

JANUARY 27, 2015

REGULAR MEETING OF THE AMES CONFERENCE BOARD

The regular meeting of the Ames Conference Board was called to order by Chairman Ann Campbell at 6:30 p.m. on January 27, 2015. Present from the Ames City Council were Gloria Betcher, Amber Corrieri, Tim Gartin, Matthew Goodman, Chris Nelson, and Peter Orazem. Story County Board of Supervisors present were Wayne Clinton and Rick Sanders. Representing the Ames School Board were Jane Acker and Bill Talbot. Gilbert Community School District was represented by Tanya Austin. United School District was not represented.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014, MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE BOARD: Moved by Sanders, seconded by Betcher, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014, Meeting of the Ames Conference Board.

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

ASSESSOR'S BUDGET PROPOSALS: Ames City Assessor Greg Lynch highlighted information from the City Assessor's 2015/16 Annual Report. Mr. Lynch reported that the budget proposal is very similar to last year's proposal; however, there are three major differences. Referencing Page 9 of the Proposal, Mr. Lynch noted the very large population growth in Ames that had occurred since 1996. According to Mr. Lynch, 1996 was the last time that his office had added any staff. The number of new projects that had been submitted to the Planning and Housing Department and the number of inspections done by the Inspections Division were reported. Those, in turn, have created a lot of work for the City Assessor's Office. Due to those increases in workload, he is asking for a new half-time employee. The total cost for that half-time person would equate to \$48,948. The second difference was the purchase of a new server at the cost of \$28,700. The third difference is to earmark \$17,000 annually (over the next two years) to begin planning for a Content Management system that is scaled to the needs of the City Assessor's Office.

Mr. Lynch shared good news that the taxable value increased by 4% from 2013 to 2014.

Mr. Sanders advised that the Mini-Board had recommended a 3% increase in staff salaries. He said the Board based its recommendation on what it thought the City of Ames would be proposing for its employees.

Mr. Sanders asked for more justification for the purchase of a new server. Matt Emerson, IT Administrator, for the City Assessor's Office, stated that it is generally good business practice to replace servers that are four to five years old. He stated that the two older, less powerful systems would be replaced with a more powerful server. It would incur a substantial up-front replacement cost of \$28,700, but will eliminate a need for ongoing support contracts of \$700 annually. Regarding the proposed Document Management System, Mr. Emerson advised that the City Assessor's Office needs to integrate its current software into any software that would be purchased and utilized for document management.

Moved by Sanders, seconded by Orazem, to approve the recommendations of the Assessor's report. Roll Call Vote: 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

Moved by Sanders, seconded by Corrieri, to receive the proposed budget (adoption of the budget will occur after the hearing is held).

Roll Call Vote: 3.0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

Moved by Betcher, seconded by Sanders, to set 6:30 p.m. on February 24, 2015, as the date of public hearing on the proposed FY 2015/16 City Assessor's budget.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Orazem, seconded by Goodman, to adjourn the Ames Conference Board at 7:00 p.m.

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