

**BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION  
JUNE 16, 2015  
OFFICE OF COUNTY AUDITOR**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015 at 4:02 p.m. with Auditor Kirk Peysar, County Assessor Mike Dangers, County Commissioners J. Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Brian Napstad, County Administrator Nathan Burkett, and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

Staff present – Karen Ladd, Jim Hicks, Darcy Moore, Lori Tibbetts, and Stacy Westerlund

Also present – County Attorney Jim Ratz

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried (6-0), to approve the BAE agenda.

Introduction and General Review of 2015 Assessment

The following persons appeared, wrote letters, or telephoned regarding appeal and equalization of property:

**Robert Miller & Susan Haggberg-Miller**

09-0-056601  
Pt of Lot 4 in Doc 420851 (Tract C)

Information presented: Value too high, due to elevation and lakeshore quality

Action: Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (6-0). All voted no change, as recommended by the County Assessor.

**Irish Investments, LLC (Rick O’Gara)**

Plat of Birch Lake Shores  
11-1-24790 through 11-1-250400

Information presented: Feels valuation too high in comparison to 2014 purchase price of \$425,000.

Action: Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (6-0). All voted to value the back lots as acreage instead of individual lots, which will result in a decrease of \$150,300, as recommended by the County Assessor. The new total value of the parcels would then be \$477,400.

**Steven & Jane Soltau**

29-1-161200  
Pt Lot 181 as in Doc 360908 and Lot 182

Written appeal.

The County Assessor provided a revised packet.

Information presented: Owner feels cabin is a tear down and whole property valued too high.

Action: Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried (6-0). Based on new information presented, all voted to change valuation from \$153,800 to \$146,800, as recommended by the County Assessor.

**Duane & Janet Soltau (Steven Soltau Representative)**

29-1-492200 & 29-1-492300  
Lot 32 and Lot 33 Double S Acres  
Second Addition

Written appeal.

Information presented: Feels value too high based upon appraisal, and also because property is in the flood plain and was impacted by the flood in 2012.

Action: Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (6-0). All voted no change, as recommended by the County Assessor.

At 5:32 p.m. Commissioner Marcotte excused herself from the Board, left the Board table, and joined the public attendees.

**Anne M. Marcotte**

12-0-021800  
(NW NE) Lot 1 less pts in Docs 397860 and  
406931

Information presented: A wetland delineation was recently done and now questions the EMV.

Action: Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried (5-0 Marcotte absent). All voted no change, as recommended by the County Assessor.

Motion by County Auditor Peysar, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried (5-0 Marcotte absent), all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

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J. Mark Wedel, Chairperson  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Kirk Peysar  
Aitkin County Auditor

SEAL