State of New Hampshire
Department of Revenue Administration

109 Pleasant Street
PO Box 487, Concord, NH 03302-0487
Telephone (603) 271-2687
www.nh.gov/revenue

Kevin A. Clougherty
Commissioner

Margaret L. Fulton
Assistant Commissioner

PROPERTY APPRAISAL DIVISION
Stephan W. Hamilton
Director

Michael B. Martell, Sr.
Assistant Director

August 19, 2010

Town of Dorchester
Board of Selectmen
1021 NH Route 118
Dorchester, NH 03266

RE: 2009 Assessment Review

Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen:

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has completed its review based on the six assessment areas specifically identified in RSA 21-J:11-a and RSA 21-J:14-b I. (c).

They are:

A. Level of assessments and uniformity of assessments are within acceptable ranges as recommended by the Assessing Standards Board by considering, where appropriate, an assessment-to-sales-ratio study conducted by the Department for the municipality;

B. Assessment practices substantially comply with applicable statutes and rules;

C. Exemption and credit procedures substantially comply with applicable statutes and rules;

D. Assessments are based on reasonably accurate data;

E. Assessments of various types of properties are reasonably proportional to other types of properties within the municipality; and,

F. For all revaluations including full revaluations, partial revaluations, cyclical revaluations and statistical updates conducted on or after the April 1, 2006 assessment year by either an independent contractor or an in-house assessor, a report based on the 2005 edition of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) Standard 6 shall be produced.

In accordance with RSA 21-J:11-a, II, the Department shall report its findings to the Assessing Standards Board and the municipality.

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Department of Revenue Administration are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the Department.

We are pleased to report that you have met most of the above guidelines as recommended by the Assessing Standards Board (ASB), with the exception of the following:

Item B. Current Use procedures still need some work in order to comply with applicable statutes and rules. Attached please find the Departments' worksheets indicating areas that should be addressed.

Item C. Veteran credit procedures still need some work in order to comply with applicable statutes and rules. Attached please find the Departments' worksheets indicating areas that should be addressed.

Item E. Proportionality between property types do not comply with applicable statutes and rules. Specifically, the price related differential is 1.07 (w/ a 90% confidence interval) and outside the price related differential range of .98 and 1.03. Attached please find the Department's 2009 Equalization Summary.

Item F. The Town and Department received the USPAP compliant report contracted to be provided by John W. McSorley Consulting for the 2009 Statistical Update on May 5, 2010. The Department reviewed the USPAP report checklist and found the report to be non-compliant. A copy of the checklist and cover letter has been sent to the contractor and the town.

The Department has assisted many communities in areas that needed attention. Please feel free to call us anytime and we would be more than willing to assist in any way we can.

Prior to release of this report to the ASB you have an opportunity to respond to any DRA recommendations made. Your response should be made within 30 days of the date of this letter. Shortly, we will be in contact to schedule a meeting to review this report and help with any questions you may have.

Special thanks to those staff members assisting with information retrieval as well as working in an understanding and cooperative manner.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that pursuant to RSA75: 8-a Five-Year Valuation as well as Part 2 [Art.] 6. [Valuation and Taxation.] of the State Constitution your next town-wide reappraisal must be completed no later than 2014.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephan W. Hamilton, Director
Property Appraisal Division

cc: File