

Assessing Standards Board  
2014 Annual Report  
January, 2015

The Assessing Standards Board (ASB) met eight times in 2014 and held a public forum at the annual conference for municipalities in November.

In January the ASB re-elected Len Gerzon as chairman and Bob Gagne vice chairman. Major accomplishments of 2014 included the completion of the 2014 Equalization Manual, the formation of an ASB subcommittee to review the consistency of assessing definitions in the DRA 300 rules and the ASB rules to establish greater clarity. The ASB manual update project was published in the first quarter of 2014. Over the course of the year the ASB welcomed input from the NH Assessors on thoughts about including additional USPAP Standards in DRA Assessment Review. Currently, the NH Statutes specifically mention only USPAP Standard 6 and the ASB has been looking into viability of expanding authority for the DRA to review and offer comment to the cities and towns regarding projects that are outside the scope of USPAP Standard 6, which deals exclusively with mass appraisal.

#### Assessing Manual Update

The latest update of Understanding New Hampshire Property Taxes was completed and issued in the first quarter of 2014. The Board determined that it would be appropriate to activate the manual subcommittee in 2012 with the objectives of providing legislative updates, improving user-friendliness, along with the intent and purpose of the document. The refreshed manual now contains expanded frequently asked questions (FAQs), along with a glossary that is accessible by clicking italicized words via the on-line version.

#### 2014 Legislative Changes

During the 2014 Legislative session the following changes were enacted:

- A statutory change was made in 2014 moving the issue of defining “Sales Chasing” out of the ASB’s statutory charge and into a rulemaking function.

#### Equalization Subcommittee

The equalization subcommittee completed the Equalization Manual in 2014. Their primary tasks included deriving and refining a definition of sales chasing and updating the equalization manual and other language pertaining to the equalization process, as appropriate.

There are no specific proposed 2015 legislative changes directed by the ASB.

Task list for 2015

- Comparison of ASB and Rev rules for consistency
- Examination of property tax cards and card codes
- Placing adopted Ethical Code into rulemaking format
- Review certification levels
- Define market transactions
- Improve data availability
- Examine further alignment with USPAP

Respectfully Submitted,



Len Gerzon, Chairman