



REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

From: Andrew J. Quarnstrom, City of Champaign Township Supervisor

Date: May 2, 2017

Subject: Resignation and Replacement of Township Assessor

- A. **Introduction:** Assessor Brian Christie has submitted his resignation effective July 1, 2017. Assessor Elect Paul Faraci will take office January 1, 2018 leaving a six (6) month vacancy in the elected Assessor position.

- B. **Action Requested:** The Town Board is requested to choose through a straw poll between two of the procedures offered by Illinois State Statute (35 ILCS 200/2-60 (a) and (b)) to fill the vacated seat caused by Mr. Christie's resignation. Based on the straw poll decision, the Supervisor will provide the board with Assessor candidates at the Regular Township meeting held June 6th, 2017.

- C. **Recommended Action:** Township staff recommends Option 1, appointing a qualified Assessor of the same political party to fill out the remainder of the term.

- D. **Background:** Assessor Christie, a Republican, was first elected in 1985 and his current term ends on December 31, 2017. Assessor Elect Paul Faraci, a Democrat, was elected in an uncontested race during the April 4, 2017 consolidated election and his term starts January 1, 2018. In addition to the elected Assessor, the City of Champaign Township Assessor's office also employs a Deputy Assessor and an office administrator for a total of three (3) employees. A recent receptionist retirement has not been filled by Assessor Christie with the intent that the Assessor Elect will fill that position.

- E. **Discussion of Alternatives:** Illinois Compiled Statute 35 ILCS 200/2-60 allows for two options to fill a vacancy in the elected Assessor. Option one (1) is to appoint a qualified Assessor (as defined in 35 ILCS 200/2-45) of the same political party to complete the remaining term of the vacated Assessor. Option two (2) allows for the Supervisor, directed by the Board, to contract with a qualified Assessor for the remainder of the term. Options 1 and 2 provide the Assessor be paid no more than the salary previously authorized for the township Assessor.

To be considered a qualified Assessor as defined in 35 ILCS 200/2-45, the Assessor must have a current and valid Certified Illinois Assessing Officer certificate from the Illinois Property Assessment Institute.

A request for proposals (RFP) will be sent out and posted in the News Gazette requesting candidates for appointment or for contract, depending on the Board's decision, submit a resume to the Township Supervisor no later than May 19th, 2017. The Town Board will have the opportunity to review and decide on the appointment or contract at the June 6th, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in Assessment in the City of Champaign as well as knowledge or experience of Township operations.

- a. **Option 1**-Appoint a qualified Assessor, as defined in Section 2-45, and one of the same political party to fill out the remainder of the term.

i. **Advantages:**

1. Potentially provides for a quick, simple, and short term solution to fill the vacancy.
2. The Township currently employs a Deputy Assessor that would be able to assume the role through appointment.

ii. **Disadvantages:**

1. An appointment provides for little oversight of the appointee during the six (6) month appointment period. Few options are provided to the Board to terminate an elected or appointed Assessor for lack of performance.

- b. **Option 2**-Contract with a qualified Assessor, as defined in Section 2-45, for the remainder of the term (July 1-December 31).

i. **Advantages:**

1. Possibility of having a larger pool of Assessor's to choose from.
2. The Board and Supervisor may have more oversight over a contracted Assessor.

Disadvantages:

3. A contracted Assessor may not be familiar with the City of Champaign. Although stronger consideration will be given to a resident or someone employed in real estate in Champaign, this position may attract companies from outside of the community and state.

F. **Community Input:**

Community input will be received during the comments section of the meeting.

G. **Budget Impact:**

The statute states that an appointee or a contracted Assessor cannot be paid more than the elected Assessor. Although an appointee may possibly be less costly, the overall budget impact is at most cost neutral and likely the Township will recognize some cost savings for the 6-month period.

H. **Staffing Impact:**

The Township will have no significant staffing impact. Depending on the Board's decision as to appoint or contract, some Township employees may change positions to enhance operations. All position changes will be by employee choice.

Prepared by: Andrew J. Quarnstrom
Township Supervisor

Reviewed by: Jennifer Bannon
Township Attorney

Attachments:
Resignation Letter