

**MINUTES OF THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**ST. TAMMANY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX**

**21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LA.**

**Call to Order by Honorable Jerry Binder, Vice -Chairman**

**Invocation by Mr. Bellisario**

**Pledge of Allegiance by Ms. O'Brien**

**Roll Call: Marty Dean ABSENT  
Dennis Sharp  
James A. (Red) Thompson  
R. Reid Falconer  
Richard E. Tanner  
Jacob (Jake) Groby  
Martin W. Gould, Jr. ABSENT  
Chris Canulette ABSENT  
E. L. Gene Bellisario  
Maureen O'Brien  
Steve Stefancik  
Jerry Binder  
Richard Artigue  
Thomas (T.J.) Smith, Jr.**

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION  
(Public Hearing November 1, 2012)**

**Binder - 1) Ord. Cal. No. 4885 - Ordinance adopting the 2013 Parish Operating Budget.  
(Gould/Brister)**

**Stefancik - moved to introduce, second by Bellisario.**

**Binder - 2) Ord. Cal. No. 4886 - Ordinance adopting the 2013-2017 Parish Capital Improvement Budget and Program, and further identify Fixed Assets & Grants Awards. (Gould/Brister)**

**Stefancik - moved to introduce, second by Artigue.**

**NOTE: The Parish Council will hold a Public Hearing in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2012, to review the proposed Parish Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets prior to adoption.**

**Copies of both budgets will be made available for review by September 26, 2012 at the Parish Council Office and the following Parish Library Branches:**

**Covington  
Abita Springs  
Causeway  
Folsom  
Lacombe  
Lee Road  
Mandeville  
Pearl River  
Slidell Robert Blvd.**

**Patricia Brister - read and submitted letter summarizing the budget and advised the Budget could be found on the Parish website.**

**Bellisario - the Council Finance Committee will hold public hearings with each Parish Department Director beginning on October 24, 2012.**

**PUBLIC HEARING - BOARD OF REVIEW**

**Binder - In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 47:1992, the St. Tammany Parish Council hereby convenes in public session as a Board of Review to entertain complaints and/or appeals from any taxpayer(s) aggrieved by ad valorem assessments levied against his/her/their property.**

**The Assessor of St. Tammany Parish has duly advertised notice of this public hearing in accordance with law. The deadline for receipt of appeals by taxpayers to the Board of Review will be 11:59 p.m. September 27, 2012. If appeals are lodged but resolved through the Parish Assessor's Office, the set hearing times will automatically expire and terminate without the need for the Parish Council to reconvene to so declare.**

**Binder - the Council Office will be gathering all of the Appeals filed and begin setting hearings with the Council as the Board of Review. The hearings will be scheduled in the evenings and possibly on Saturdays in October.**

**Mike Sevante - so far the Council Office has received over 600 appeals. By law, the Council has 15 days from the date of the first hearing to complete all of the hearings. Because of this, citizens who filed appeals may not hear from the Council Office for a week or so.**

**CLERK'S NOTE - the following citizens appeared with concerns about individual property assessments: Althea Boudreaux (submitted document), George Haas, Lawrence Paul, Thomas Willet, Mr. Barrett, Abraham Lincoln, Joy Valez, Jack Francione, John Ottman, Cathy Campo**

**Binder - the Board of Review does not have any rule over the Assessor's Office. Its role is to represent the constituents in the best way possible. They are not hear to automatically override the assessor, constituents who appeal need to bring documentation to prove their case as to why their property assessment is too high.**

**Sevante - according to State Law, the assessor must assess properties at Fair Market Value which is the amount a willing buyer agrees to pay a willing seller.**

**Falconer - constituents have to file a separate appeal with the Council Office after they have filed an appeal with the Assessor's Office.**

**Groby - if anyone has property which was damaged by Hurricane Isaac, they need to let the Assessor's Office know.**

**Binder - if the Board of Review overrides an assessment, the Assessor has the right to appeal to the Tax Commission. Homeowners may also appeal decisions to the Tax Commission. There will be Deputy Assessors available at the Board of Review Hearings to discuss the assessments.**

**Kevin Pearson - Louisiana Representative - he represents Slidell and there were a lot of assessment increase there, especially to businesses. It is very disconcerting because many businesses are threatening to leave Slidell if the assessments continue to increase. He is ready to do whatever is needed to correct any problems with assessments and the Tax Commission.**

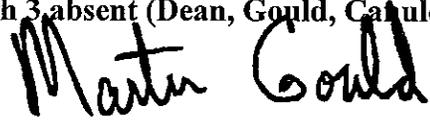
**Stefancik - thinks the Board of Review needs to ask the Assessor to appear at the first hearing and explain to the Council what process was used to complete assessments. If the assessor refuses, he would think Legal Council should advise if the Board can require her to appear according to the Home Rule Charter.**

**Terry Hand - he will review the Charter to verify if the Board can do that. Thinks if they were to require the Assessor to appear, it would be the first time that Section of the Charter would be revoked.**

**Binder - he believes State Law requires the Assessor or a representative be present at the Board of Review Hearings.**

Binder - the Board of Review needs to be recessed until the first hearing.

Artigue - moved to recess, second by Smith. Unanimous with 3 absent (Dean, Gould, Catulette)



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MARTIN W. GOULD, JR., COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



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THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK