



City of Hampton

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of City Council

FROM: Brian E. Gordineer, AAS, City Assessor *Brian*

DATE: April 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Filling Vacancy on Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments

Sally Abbott, a member of the Board of Review who was reappointed June 10, 2009 for a four-year term, has resigned to devote her full attention to the failing health of a family member. In filling this vacancy it may be wise to look to changes made to the Virginia Code 58.1-3374 which effective October 16, 2010 will require that appeal cases involving commercial, industrial or multi-family residential property be heard by at least one member of the board who is a commercial or residential real estate appraiser, other real estate professional, builder, developer, or legal or financial professional, unless there is a waiver by the property owner.

It would seem prudent to add a third "real estate" or related professional to the five-member board given that historically all members have rarely been present together, and there is always the possibility that one of the required "real estate" or related professionals might have to recuse themselves due to a relationship with the owner or agent. Filling this vacancy also provides Council the opportunity to provide the Board of Review a member who is a state-licensed real estate appraiser. A professional trained in real estate valuation would be an immeasurable asset to the current Board which has just one member with any direct experience in real estate valuation.

A review of applications in the Hampton Board Bank reveals one applicant who is a state-licensed real estate appraiser and is certified to appraise real estate of any value in the Commonwealth of Virginia. David E. Richards was initially licensed in 1992 with

the introduction of state licensure. He is a managing partner in Dominion Realty Advisors, Inc., a well-known Norfolk-based firm specializing in valuation and consultation services for real property. Mr. Richards has achieved the coveted MAI professional designation from the Appraisal Institute. His extensive professional experience and more than thirty years of residency in Hampton would make him a valuable addition to the Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments.