

CHAPTER 71
ASSESSMENT PRACTICES AND EQUALIZATION
[Prior to 12/17/86, Revenue Department[730]]

701—71.1(405,427A,428,441,499B) Classification of real estate.

71.1(1) Responsibility of assessors. All real estate subject to assessment by city and county assessors shall be classified as provided in this rule. It shall be the responsibility of city and county assessors to determine the proper classification of real estate. There can be only one classification per property. An assessor shall not assign one classification to the land and a different classification to the building or separate classifications to the land or separate classifications to the building (dual classification). A building or structure on leased land is considered a separate property and may be classified differently than the land upon which it is located. The determination shall be based upon the best judgment of the assessor following the guidelines set forth in this rule and the status of the real estate as of January 1 of the year in which the assessment is made. The assessor shall classify and value property according to its present use and not according to its highest and best use. For example, property currently used as a golf course shall be assessed and valued by the assessor as a golf course even though its highest and best potential use may be an industrial park or commercial development. See subrule 71.1(8) for an exception to the general rule that property is to be classified according to its use. The classification shall be utilized on the abstract of assessment submitted to the department of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code section 441.45. See rule 71.8(428,441).

71.1(2) Responsibility of boards of review, county auditors, and county treasurers. Whenever local boards of review, county auditors, and county treasurers exercise assessment functions allowed or required by law, they shall classify property as provided in this rule and adhere to the requirements of this rule.

71.1(3) Agricultural real estate. Agricultural real estate shall include all tracts of land and the improvements and structures located on them which are in good faith used primarily for agricultural purposes except buildings which are primarily used or intended for human habitation as defined in subrule 71.1(4). Land and the nonresidential improvements and structures located on it shall be considered to be used primarily for agricultural purposes if its principal use is devoted to the raising and harvesting of crops or forest or fruit trees, the rearing, feeding, and management of livestock, or horticulture, all for intended profit.

Vineyards and any buildings located on a vineyard and used in connection with the vineyard shall be classified as agricultural real estate if the primary use of the land and buildings is an activity related to the production or sale of wine.

Agricultural real estate shall also include woodland, wasteland, and pastureland, but only if that land is held or operated in conjunction with agricultural real estate as defined in this subrule.

71.1(4) Residential real estate. Residential real estate shall include all lands and buildings which are primarily used or intended for human habitation, including those buildings located on agricultural land. Buildings used primarily or intended for human habitation shall include the dwelling as well as structures and improvements used primarily as a part of, or in conjunction with, the dwelling. This includes but is not limited to garages, whether attached or detached, tennis courts, swimming pools, guest cottages, and storage sheds for household goods. Residential real estate located on agricultural land shall include only buildings as defined in this subrule. Buildings for human habitation that are used as commercial ventures, including but not limited to hotels, motels, rest homes, and structures containing three or more separate living quarters shall not be considered residential real estate. However, regardless of the number of separate living quarters, multiple housing cooperatives organized under Iowa Code chapter 499A and land and buildings owned and operated by organizations that have received tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the rental income from the property is not taxed as unrelated business income under Iowa Code section 422.33(1A), shall be considered residential real estate.

An apartment in a horizontal property regime (condominium) referred to in Iowa Code chapter 499B which is used or intended for use for human habitation shall be classified as residential real estate

regardless of who occupies the apartment. Existing structures shall not be converted to a horizontal property regime unless building code requirements have been met.

71.1(5) Commercial real estate. Commercial real estate shall include all lands and improvements and structures located thereon which are primarily used or intended as a place of business where goods, wares, services, or merchandise is stored or offered for sale at wholesale or retail. Commercial realty shall also include hotels, motels, rest homes, structures consisting of three or more separate living quarters and any other buildings for human habitation that are used as a commercial venture. Commercial real estate shall also include data processing equipment as defined in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1) “j,” except data processing equipment used in the manufacturing process. However, regardless of the number of separate living quarters or any commercial use of the property, single- and two-family dwellings, multiple housing cooperatives organized under Iowa Code chapter 499A, and land and buildings used primarily for human habitation and owned and operated by organizations that have received tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the rental income from the property is not taxed as unrelated business income under Iowa Code section 422.33(1A), shall be classified as residential real estate.

An apartment in a horizontal property regime (condominium) referred to in Iowa Code chapter 499B which is used or intended for use as a commercial venture, other than leased for human habitation, shall be classified as commercial real estate. Existing structures shall not be converted to a horizontal property regime unless building code requirements have been met.

71.1(6) Industrial real estate.

a. Land and buildings.

(1) Industrial real estate includes land, buildings, structures, and improvements used primarily as a manufacturing establishment. A manufacturing establishment is a business entity in which the primary activity consists of adding to the value of personal property by any process of manufacturing, refining, purifying, the packing of meats, or the combination of different materials with the intent of selling the product for gain or profit. Industrial real estate includes land and buildings used for the storage of raw materials or finished products and which are an integral part of the manufacturing establishment, and also includes office space used as part of a manufacturing establishment.

(2) Whether property is used primarily as a manufacturing establishment and, therefore, assessed as industrial real estate depends upon the extent to which the property is used for the activities enumerated in subparagraph 71.1(6) “a”(1). Property in which the performance of these activities is only incidental to the property’s primary use for another purpose is not a manufacturing establishment. For example, a grocery store in which bakery goods are prepared would be assessed as commercial real estate since the primary use of the grocery store premises is for the sale of goods not manufactured by the grocery and the industrial activity, i.e., baking, is only incidental to the store premises’ primary use. However, property which is used primarily as a bakery would be assessed as industrial real estate even if baked goods are sold at retail on the premises since the bakery premises’ primary use would be for an industrial activity to which the retail sale of baked goods is merely incidental. See *Lichty v. Board of Review of Waterloo*, 230 Iowa 750, 298 N.W. 654 (1941).

Similarly, a facility which has as its primary use the mixing and blending of products to manufacture feed would be assessed as industrial real estate even though a portion of the facility is used solely for the storage of grain, if the use for storage is merely incidental to the property’s primary use as a manufacturing establishment. Conversely, a facility used primarily for the storage of grain would be assessed as commercial real estate even though a part of the facility is used to manufacture feed. In the latter situation, the industrial use of the property — the manufacture of feed — is merely incidental to the property’s primary use for commercial purposes — the storage of grain.

(3) Property used primarily for the extraction of rock or mineral substances from the earth is not a manufacturing establishment if the only processing performed on the substance is to change its size by crushing or pulverizing. See *River Products Company v. Board of Review of Washington County*, 332 N.W.2d 116 (Iowa Ct. App. 1982).

b. Machinery.

(1) Machinery includes equipment and devices, both automated and nonautomated, which is used in manufacturing as defined in Iowa Code section 428.20. See *Deere Manufacturing Co. v. Beiner*, 247 Iowa 1264, 78 N.W.2d 527 (1956).

(2) Machinery owned or used by a manufacturer but not used within the manufacturing establishment is not assessed as industrial real estate. For example, “X” operates a factory which manufactures building materials for sale. In addition, “X” uses some of these building materials in construction contracts. The machinery which “X” would primarily use at the construction site would not be used in a manufacturing establishment and, therefore, would not be assessed as industrial real estate.

(3) Machinery used in manufacturing but not used in or by a manufacturing establishment is not assessed as industrial real estate. See *Associated General Contractors of Iowa v. State Tax Commission*, 255 Iowa 673, 123 N.W.2d 922 (1963).

(4) Where the primary function of a manufacturing establishment is to manufacture personal property that is consumed by the manufacturer rather than sold, the machinery used in the manufacturing establishment is not assessed as industrial real estate. See *Associated General Contractors of Iowa v. State Tax Commission*, 255 Iowa 673, 123 N.W.2d 922 (1963).

71.1(7) Point-of-sale equipment. As used in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1)“j,” the term “point-of-sale equipment” means input, output, and processing equipment used to consummate a sale and to record or process information pertaining to a sale transaction at the time the sale takes place and which is located at the counter, desk, or other specific point at which the transaction occurs. As used in this subrule, the term “sale” means the sale or rental of goods or services and includes both retail and wholesale transactions. Point-of-sale equipment does not include equipment used primarily for depositing or withdrawing funds from financial institution accounts.

71.1(8) Housing development property. A county board of supervisors may adopt an ordinance providing that property acquired and subdivided for development of housing be classified the same as it was prior to its acquisition until the property is sold or, depending on a county’s population, for a specified number of years from the date of subdivision, whichever is shorter. The applicable time period is five years in counties with a population of less than 20,000 and three years in counties with a population of 20,000 or more. The property is to be classified as residential or commercial, whichever is applicable, in the assessment year following the year in which it is sold or the applicable time period has expired. For purposes of this subrule, “subdivided” means to divide a tract of land into three or more lots.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 405.1, 427A.1, 428.4 and 441.22 and chapter 499B and Iowa Code Supplement section 441.21 as amended by 2002 Iowa Acts, House File 2584.

701—71.2(421,428,441) Assessment and valuation of real estate.

71.2(1) Responsibility of assessor. The valuation of real estate as established by city and county assessors shall be the actual value of the real estate as of January 1 of the year in which the assessment is made. New parcels of real estate created by the division of existing parcels of real estate shall be assessed separately as of January 1 of the year following the division of the existing parcel of real estate.

71.2(2) Responsibility of other assessing officials. Whenever local boards of review, county auditors, and county treasurers exercise assessment functions allowed or required by law, they shall follow the provisions of subrule 71.2(1) and rules 71.3(421,428,441) to 71.7(421,427A,428,441).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.3(421,428,441) Valuation of agricultural real estate. Agricultural real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21 by giving exclusive consideration to its productivity and net earning capacity. In determining the actual value of agricultural real estate, city and county assessors shall use the “Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual” and any other guidelines issued by the department of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17(18).

In determining the productivity and net earning capacity of agricultural real estate, the assessor shall also use available data from Iowa State University, the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service, the

department of revenue, or other reliable sources. The assessor shall also consider the results of a modern soil survey, if completed.

The assessor shall determine the actual valuation of agricultural real estate within the assessing jurisdiction and spread such valuation throughout the jurisdiction so that each parcel of real estate is assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21.

In order to determine a productivity value for agricultural buildings and structures, assessors shall make an agricultural adjustment to the market value of these buildings and structures by developing an "agricultural factor" for their jurisdiction. The agricultural factor for each jurisdiction shall be the product of the ratio of the productivity and net earning capacity value per acre as determined under subrule 71.12(1) over the market value of agricultural land within the assessing jurisdiction. The resulting ratio is then applied to the actual value of the agricultural buildings and structures as determined under the Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual prepared by the department. The agricultural factor shall be applied uniformly to all agricultural buildings and structures in the assessing jurisdiction. As an example, if a building's actual value is \$500,000 and the agricultural factor is 50 percent, the productivity value of that building is \$250,000. See *H & R Partnership v. Davis County Board of Review*, 654 N.W.2d 521 (Iowa 2002).

Land classified as agricultural real estate includes the land beneath any dwelling and appurtenant structures located on that land and shall be valued by the assessor pursuant to rule 701—71.3(421,428,441). An assessor shall not value a part of the land as agricultural real estate and a part of the land as if it is residential real estate.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.4(421,428,441) Valuation of residential real estate. Residential real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21.

In determining the actual value of residential real estate, city and county assessors shall use the appraisal manual issued by the department of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17(18) as well as a locally conducted assessment/sales ratio study, an analysis of sales of comparable properties, and any other relevant data available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.5(421,428,441) Valuation of commercial real estate. Commercial real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21. In determining the actual value of commercial real estate, city and county assessors shall use the appraisal manual issued by the department of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17(18) as well as a locally conducted assessment/sales ratio study, an analysis of sales of comparable properties, and any other relevant data available.

71.5(1) Property of long distance telephone companies. The director of revenue shall assess the property of long distance telephone companies as defined in Iowa Code section 476.1D(10) which property is first assessed for taxation on or after January 1, 1996, in the same manner as commercial real estate.

71.5(2) Low-income housing subject to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code.

a. Productive and earning capacity. In assessing property that is rented or leased to low-income individuals and families as authorized by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code which limits the amount that the individual or family pays for the rental or lease of units in the property, the assessor shall use the productive and earning capacity from the actual rents received as a method of appraisal and shall take into account the extent to which that use and limitation reduces the market value of the property.

b. Direct capitalization method. The income approach to valuation shall be applied using the direct capitalization method. The assessor may use the discounted cash flow method as a test of the reasonableness of the results produced by the direct capitalization method. The direct capitalization method of the income approach involves dividing the Net Operating Income (NOI) on a cash basis by an overall capitalization rate to derive an indication of the value of the property for the assessment year.

In applying the direct capitalization method, the assessor shall develop a normalized measure of annual NOI based on the productive and earning capacity of the development utilizing (1) the actual rent

schedule applicable for each of the available units as of January 1 of the year of assessment indicating the actual rent to be paid by the resident plus any Section 8 rental assistance or other direct cash rental subsidy provided to the resident by federal, state or local rent subsidy programs as limited pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, (2) a normal vacancy/collection allowance, (3) the prior year's actual and current year's projected annual operating expenses associated with the property, excluding noncash items such as depreciation and amortization, but including property taxes and those actual costs expected to be incurred and paid as required by Internal Revenue Code Section 42 regulations, provisions, and restrictions as applicable to the assessment year, and (4) an appropriate provision for replacement reserves.

If no separate line item is included for reserves for replacement in the historic income and expense data, then the maintenance and repair categories of the historic expense data must be itemized. For properties that have attained a normalized operating history, the NOI results of the prior three years (as represented in the statements variously named as the Income and Loss Statement, the Profit and Loss Statement, the Income Statement, the Actual to Budget Comparison Statement, Balance Sheet, or some name variation of these) may be used to provide the basis for determining the normalized NOI used for purposes of applying the direct capitalization method for the year of assessment, provided an appropriate replacement reserve is included in the NOI determination and provided any additional costs required as a result of Section 42 regulation or compliance changes for the assessment year are included as an operating expense in the NOI determination. In addition, the assessor may utilize the current year operating budget to develop a measure of NOI for the assessment year. The assessor, in developing the measure of annual NOI on a cash basis, shall not consider as income any potential rental income differential that could otherwise be received from the property if the rents were not limited pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, any tax credit equity, any tax credit value, or other subsidized financing.

c. Filing of reports. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to file income and expense data with the local assessor by March 1 of each year. The assessor may require the filing of additional information if deemed necessary.

d. Capitalization rate. The overall capitalization rate to be used in applying the direct capitalization method for a Section 42 property is developed through the band-of-investment technique. The capitalization rate will be calculated annually by the Iowa department of revenue and distributed to all Iowa assessors by March 1. The capitalization rate is a composite rate weighted by the proportions of total property investment represented by debt and equity. The capital structure weights equity at 80 percent and debt at 20 percent unless actual market capital structure can be verified to the assessor. The yield, or market rate of return, for equity is calculated using the capital asset pricing model (CAPM). The yield for debt is equivalent to the average yield on 25-year Treasury bonds referred to as the Treasury long-term average rate. An example of the band-of-investment technique to be utilized is as follows:

	% to Total	Yield	Composite
Equity	80%	11.05%	8.84%
Debt	20%	5.94%	1.19%
	100%		10.03%

e. Capital asset pricing model. The capital asset pricing model (CAPM) is utilized to develop the equity rate. The formula is:

$$Re = B (Rm - Rf) + Rf$$

Where:	Re	=	return on equity
	B	=	beta
	Rm	=	return on the market
	Rf	=	risk-free rate of return
	Rm - Rf	=	market-risk premium

The beta is assumed to be 1 which indicates the risk level to be consistent with the market as a whole. The risk-free rate is calculated by finding the average of the three-month and six-month Treasury bill. The return on the market is calculated by taking the average of the return on the market for the Merrill Lynch Universe and Standard and Poor's 500 or by reference to other published secondary sources.

f. Properties under construction. For Section 42 properties under construction, the assessor may value the property by applying the percentage of completion to the replacement cost new (RCN) as calculated from the Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual and adding the fair market value of the land. Alternatively, projected income and expense data may be utilized if available.

g. Negative or minimal NOI. If the Section 42 property shows a negative or minimal net operating income (NOI), the indicator of value as set forth in these rules shall not be utilized.

h. Eligibility withdrawn. The property owner shall notify the assessor when property is withdrawn from Section 42 eligibility under the Internal Revenue Code. The notification must be provided by March 1 of the assessment year or the owner is subject to a penalty of \$500.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4, 441.21 as amended by 2004 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2296, and 476.1D(10).

701—71.6(421,428,441) Valuation of industrial land and buildings. Industrial real estate shall be assessed at its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21.

In determining the actual value of industrial land and buildings, city and county assessors shall use the appraisal manual issued by the department of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 421.17(18), and any other relevant data available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.7(421,427A,428,441) Valuation of industrial machinery. Industrial machinery as referred to in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1) "e" shall include all machinery used in manufacturing establishments and shall be assessed as real estate even though such machinery might be assessed as personal property if not used in a manufacturing establishment.

In determining the actual value of industrial machinery assessed as real estate, the assessor shall give consideration to the "Industrial Machinery and Equipment Valuation Guide" issued by the department of revenue and any other relevant data available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17, 427A.1, 428.4 and 441.21.

701—71.8(428,441) Abstract of assessment. Each city and county assessor shall submit annually to the director of revenue at the times specified in Iowa Code section 441.45 an abstract of assessment for the current year. The assessor shall use the form of abstract prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue, and shall enter on the abstract all information required by the department. However, the department may approve the use of a computer-prepared abstract if the data is essentially the same format as on the form prescribed by the department. The information entered on the abstract of assessment shall be reviewed and considered by the director of revenue in equalizing the valuations of classes of properties.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 428.4 and 441.45.

701—71.9(428,441) Reconciliation report. The assessor's report of any revaluation required by Iowa Code section 428.4 shall be made on the reconciliation report prescribed and furnished by the department

of revenue. The assessor shall enter on the report all information required by the department. The reconciliation report shall be a part of the abstract of assessment required by Iowa Code section 441.45 and shall be reviewed and considered by the director in equalizing valuations of classes of property.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 428.4 and 441.45.

701—71.10(421) Assessment/sales ratio study.

71.10(1) Basic data. Basic data shall be that submitted to the department of revenue by county recorders and city and county assessors on forms prescribed and provided by the department, information furnished by parties to real estate transactions, and information obtained by field investigations made by the department of revenue.

71.10(2) Responsibility of recorders and assessors. County recorders and city and county assessors shall complete the prescribed forms as required by Iowa Code subsection 421.17(6) and rule 701—79.3(428A) in accordance with instructions issued by the department. Assessed values entered on the prescribed form shall be those established as of January 1 of the year in which the sale takes place.

71.10(3) Normal sales. All real estate transfers shall be considered by the department of revenue to be normal sales unless there exists definite information which would indicate the transfer was not an arms-length transaction or is of an excludable nature as provided in Iowa Code section 441.21.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 421.17.

701—71.11(441) Equalization of assessments by class of property. Commencing in 1977 and every two years thereafter, the director of revenue shall order the equalization of the levels of assessment of each class of property as provided in rule 71.12(441) by adding to or deducting from the valuation of each class of property, as reported to the department on the abstract of assessment and reconciliation report which is a part of the abstract, the percentage in each case as may be necessary to bring the level of assessment to its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21. Valuation adjustments shall be ordered if the director determines that the aggregate valuation of a class of property as reported on the abstract of assessment submitted by the assessor is at least 5 percent above or below the aggregate valuation for that class of property as determined by the director pursuant to rule 71.12(441). Equalization orders of the director shall be restricted to equalizing the aggregate valuations of entire classes of property among the several assessing jurisdictions. All classifications of real estate shall be applied uniformly throughout the state of Iowa.

Equalization percentage adjustments determined for residential realty located outside incorporated areas and not located on agricultural land shall apply to buildings located on agricultural land outside incorporated areas, which are primarily used or intended for human habitation, as defined in subrule 71.1(4).

Equalization percentage adjustments determined for residential realty located within incorporated cities and not located on agricultural land shall apply to buildings located on agricultural land within incorporated cities which are primarily used or intended for human habitation as defined in subrule 71.1(4).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.21, 441.47, 441.48 and 441.49.

701—71.12(441) Determination of aggregate actual values.

71.12(1) Agricultural real estate.

a. Use of income capitalization study. The equalized valuation of agricultural realty shall be based upon its productivity and net earning capacity and shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this subrule. Data used shall pertain to crops harvested during the five-year period ending with the calendar year in which assessments were last equalized. The equalized valuation of agricultural realty shall be determined for each county as follows:

(1) *Computation of county acres.* This information shall be obtained from “Iowa Agricultural Statistics” published by the Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Total acres in farms: Total acreage used for agricultural purposes.

Corn acres: Sum of corn acres harvested including silage, popcorn and acres planted for sorghum.

Oats and wheat acres: Sum of oats and wheat acres harvested.

Soybean acres: Soybean acres harvested.

Hay acres: All hay acres harvested.

Pasture acres: All pasture acres. Total pasture acres shall be determined by multiplying the total acres in farms reported in "Iowa Agricultural Statistics" by the percentage which total pasture land as reported in the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture bears to the total acreage in farmland also as reported in the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture. Determine the amount of tillable and nontillable pasture acres as follows:

1. From the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture obtain the following:

Cropland used only for pasture and grazing	acres _____
Woodland pasture	acres _____
Pasture land and rangeland (other than cropland and woodland pasture)	acres _____
Total pasture land (total of above)	acres _____
2. Determine the percent that cropland used only for pasture is of the total pasture land _____ %

3. Apply this percentage to the 5-year average total acres of pasture as determined above to determine the pasture acres to be classified as tillable pasture. The remainder of the 5-year average shall be classified as nontillable pasture land.

Determine the 5-year average acres participating in applicable government programs. Obtain data from the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, including but not limited to acreage devoted to the Payment-In-Kind (PIK), diverted and deficiency programs.

"Other acres": The difference between the total acreage for land uses listed above and the total of all land in farms. Add the total of the corn, oats, soybeans, hay, tillable and nontillable pasture and diverted acres. Subtract this total from total acres in farms. The residual is classified as other acres.

(2) *Computation of county yields.* This information shall be obtained for each county from "Iowa Agricultural Statistics" published by the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service.

Corn yield (including silage, sorghum and popcorn): Number of bushels of corn harvested for grain per acre.

Oat yield (including wheat): Number of bushels of oats harvested per acre.

Soybean yield: Number of bushels per acre harvested.

Hay yield in tons: Number of tons per acre harvested as reported by the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service.

(3) *Computation of county gross income.*

Corn: One-half of the 5-year average production multiplied by the 5-year average price received for corn.

Silage, popcorn, and sorghums: One-half of the 5-year average number of acres devoted to the production of silage, popcorn, and sorghum, times the 5-year average production per acre for corn. The amount of production so determined shall be added to the 5-year average production for corn and included in the determination of the gross income for corn.

Soybeans: One-half of the 5-year average production multiplied by the 5-year average price received.

Oats: One-half of the 5-year average production of oats and wheat multiplied by the 5-year average price received.

Price adjustment: For corn, soybeans, and oats, the prices used shall be as provided by the Iowa crop and livestock reporting service and shall be adjusted to reflect any individual county price conditions.

Government programs: Gross income shall be one-half of the 5-year average amount of cash payments or equivalent (such as PIK bushels) including but not limited to diverted, deficiency and PIK programs as reported by the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Hay: Gross income shall be a cash rent amount determined by multiplying the 5-year average number of acres devoted to hay by the product obtained by multiplying one-fourth of the 5-year average hay yield by the 5-year average price received for hay.

Tillable pasture: Gross income shall be a cash rent amount determined by multiplying the 5-year average number of acres devoted to tillable pasture by the product obtained in "hay" above.

Nontillable pasture: Gross income shall be a cash rent amount determined by multiplying the 5-year average number of acres devoted to nontillable pasture by one-half the product obtained in "hay" above.

Other acres: Income shall be the product of the number of other acres times 17 percent of the net income per acre for all other land uses.

(4) *Computation of county production costs.* The following data and procedures shall be used to determine specific county production costs.

Basic average landlord production costs: Landlord production costs for corn, soybeans, oats, diverted acres, hay, tillable pasture, nontillable pasture, fertilizer costs, and facilities costs shall be obtained for each year from Iowa State University.

Production cost adjustment. The production costs for corn, soybeans, oats, and hay are adjusted for each county by multiplying the difference between the 5-year state average yield per acre and the 5-year county average yield per acre by the 5-year average facilities costs. If a county's yield exceeds the state yield, production costs are increased by this amount. If a county's yield is less than the state yield, production costs are reduced by this amount.

Fertilizer cost adjustment. The adjustment for fertilizer costs is determined as follows: Multiply the difference between the 5-year state average corn yield per acre and the 5-year county average corn yield per acre by the fertilizer cost amount per bushel determined by Iowa State University. This amount is then multiplied times the 5-year county average corn acres determined above.

If a county's 5-year average corn yield is greater than the state 5-year average corn yield, this amount is allowed as an additional expense. If less than the state average, this amount is an expense reduction.

Liability insurance cost adjustment.

The 5-year average per acre cost of obtaining tort liability insurance shall be determined.

(5) *Computation of county net income.* From the total gross income, subtract the total expenses. Divide the resulting total by the total number of acres.

(6) *Computation of dwelling adjustment factor.* The amount determined in (5) above shall be reduced by 10.6 percent.

(7) *Computation of county tax adjustment.* Subtract the 5-year average per acre real estate taxes levied for land and structures including drainage and levee district taxes but excluding those levied against agricultural dwellings. Taxes shall be the tax levied for collection during the 5-year period as reported by county auditors, and reduced by the amount of the agricultural land tax credit.

(8) *Calculate county valuation per acre.* Divide the net income per acre ((7) above) for each county as determined above by the capitalization rate specified in Iowa Code section 441.21. The quotient shall be the actual per acre equalized valuation of agricultural land and structures for the current equalization year.

b. Use of other relevant data. The director may also consider other relevant data, including field investigations conducted by representatives of the department of revenue to determine the level of assessment of agricultural real estate.

c. Determination of value. The aggregate actual value of agricultural real estate in each county shall be determined by multiplying the equalized per acre value by the number of acres of agricultural real estate reported on the abstract of assessment for the current year, adjusted where necessary by the

results of any field investigations conducted by the department of revenue and any other relevant data available.

71.12(2) Residential real estate outside and within incorporated cities.

a. Use of assessment/sales ratio study. Basic data shall be that set forth in rule 71.10(421) refined by eliminating any sales determined to be abnormal or by adjusting the sales to eliminate the effects of factors which resulted in the sales having been determined to be abnormal. The basic data used shall be the assessment/sales ratio study conducted for sales taking place during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The director may also supplement the assessment/sales ratio study with appraisals made by department of revenue appraisal personnel for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The assessment/sales ratio study including relevant appraisals, if any, shall be used to determine the aggregate actual valuation of residential real estate in each assessing jurisdiction. The director of revenue may consider sales and appraisal data for prior years if it is determined the use of the sales and appraisal data for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued is insufficient to determine market value. If such sales and appraisal data for prior years is used, consideration shall be given for any subsequent changes in either assessed value or market value.

Assessors shall provide any known facts or circumstances regarding reported sales transactions and department appraisals which would indicate abnormal or unusual conditions or reporting discrepancies which would necessitate exclusion or adjustment of sales or appraisals from the determination of aggregate actual values. Assessors shall provide those facts within 45 days of receipt from the department of information concerning sales and appraisal data proposed for assessment/sales ratio and equalization purposes.

b. Use of other relevant data. The director may also consider other relevant data, including field investigations conducted by representatives of the department of revenue to determine the level of assessment of residential real estate.

c. Equalization appraisal selection procedures for residential real estate. Residential properties to be appraised by department of revenue personnel for use in supplementing the assessment/sales ratio study shall be selected for each jurisdiction in the following manner:

(1) The department appraiser assigned to the jurisdiction shall determine a systematic random sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required and document the following steps.

1. The department appraiser assigned to the jurisdiction shall compute the interval number by dividing the total number of improved properties in the classification to be sampled by the number of appraisals to be performed.

EXAMPLE: In this example, ten appraisals are needed with a total of 1,397 improved residential units. Dividing 1,397 by 10, 139.7 is arrived at, which is rounded down to 139. This is the interval number.

2. The selection of the first sequence number shall be accomplished by having an available disinterested person randomly select a number from one through the interval number.

EXAMPLE: In this example a number from 1 to 139 is to be selected. The person randomly selected number 20.

3. The department appraiser shall develop a systematic sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required. Starting with the randomly selected number previously picked by the disinterested person, add the interval number to this number and to each resulting number until a systematic sequence of numbers is obtained.

EXAMPLE: In this example ten appraisals are needed, so a sequence of ten numbers must be developed. Starting with number 20 and adding the interval number of 139 to it, each resulting number provides the following systematic sequence: 20, 159, 298, 437, 576, 715, 854, 993, 1,132, 1,271.

(2) Number of improved properties.

County jurisdictions—Put the name of each city or township having improved units in the classification to be sampled into a hat. Draw each one out of the hat and record its name in the order of its draw. Likewise, record the respective number of improved units for each. Then consecutively number all the improved units and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

<u>City or Township</u>	<u>Number of Improved Residential Units</u>	<u>Code Numbers</u>
Franklin Twp.	57	1-57
Pleasant View	160	58-217
Jackson Twp.	56	218-273
Johnston	300	274-573
Polk Twp.	110	574-683
Washington Twp.	114	684-797
Maryville	306	798-1103
Camden Twp.	110	1104-1213
Salem	184	1214-1397
Total	<u>1,397</u>	

(3) Determine the location of the improved properties selected for appraisal and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

<u>City or Township</u>	<u>Number of Improved Residential Units</u>	<u>Code Numbers</u>	<u>Sequence Number</u>	<u>Entry on Rolls</u>
Franklin Twp.	57	1-57	20	20
Pleasant View	160	58-217	159	102
Jackson Twp.	56	218-273		
Johnston	300	274-573	298,437	25,164
Polk Twp.	110	574-683	576	3
Washington Twp.	114	684-797	715	32
Maryville	306	798-1103	854,993	57,196
Camden Twp.	110	1104-1213	1132	29
Salem	184	1214-1397	1271	58
Total	<u>1,397</u>			

1. The department appraiser shall locate the property to be appraised by finding the relationship between the sequence numbers and the code numbers and identify the property.

EXAMPLE: The first sequence number is 20. Since the improved residential properties in Franklin Township have been assigned code numbers 1 to 57, sequence number 20 is in that location.

To identify this property, examine the Franklin Township assessment roll book and stop at the twentieth improved residential entry.

Document the parcel number, owner's name, and legal description of this property.

2. The department appraiser shall appraise the property selected unless it is ineligible because of any of the following restrictions:

- Current year sale
- Partial assessment
- Prior equalization appraisal
- Tax-exempt
- Value established by court action
- Value is not more than \$10,000
- Building on leased land

3. The department appraiser shall determine a substitute property if the originally selected one is ineligible. In ascending order, select code numbers until an eligible property is found.

EXAMPLE: If code number 20 is ineligible, use code number 21 as a substitute. If code number 21 is ineligible, use code number 22, etc., until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in 71.12(2)“c”(3)“3” moves the substitute property to another city or township, select substitute code numbers in descending order until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in the previous paragraph moves the substitute property to a preceding city or township, go back to the procedure of 71.12(2)“c”(3)“3” even if it moves the substitute property to a subsequent city or township.

4. Select an alternate property for the originally selected property which also would be eligible. This is necessary because at the time of appraisal the property may be found to be ineligible due to one of the restrictions in 71.12(2)“c”(3)“2.” Alternate properties are selected by using the same procedure described in 71.12(2)“c”(3)“3.”

5. Follow procedures 71.12(2)“c”(3), items “1” to “4,” for each of the other originally selected sequence numbers.

71.12(3) Commercial real estate.

a. Use of assessment/sales ratio study. Basic data shall be that set forth in rule 71.10(421), refined by eliminating any sales determined to be abnormal or by adjusting same to eliminate the effects of factors which resulted in the sales having been determined to be abnormal. The basic data used shall be the assessment/sales ratio study conducted for sales taking place during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The director may also supplement the assessment/sales ratio study with appraisals made by department of revenue appraisal personnel for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued. The assessment/sales ratio study including relevant appraisals, if any, shall be used to determine the aggregate actual valuation of commercial real estate in each assessing jurisdiction. The director of revenue may consider sales and appraisal data for prior years if it is determined the use of sales and appraisal data for the year immediately preceding the year in which the equalization order is issued is insufficient to determine market value. If such sales and appraisal data for prior years is used, consideration shall be given for any subsequent changes in either assessed value or market value.

b. Use of other relevant data. The director may also consider other relevant data, including field investigations conducted by representatives of the department of revenue to determine the level of assessment of commercial real estate. The diverse nature of commercial real estate precludes the use of a countywide or citywide income capitalization study.

Assessors shall provide any known facts or circumstances regarding reported sales transactions and department appraisals which would indicate abnormal or unusual conditions or reporting discrepancies which would necessitate exclusion or adjustment of sales or appraisals from the determination of aggregate actual values. Assessors shall provide those facts within 45 days of receipt from the department of information concerning sales and appraisal data proposed for assessment/sales ratio and equalization purposes.

c. Equalization appraisal selection procedures for commercial real estate. Commercial properties to be appraised by department of revenue personnel for use in supplementing the assessment/sales ratio study shall be selected for each jurisdiction in the following manner:

(1) The department appraiser assigned to the jurisdiction shall determine a systematic random sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required and document the following steps.

1. The department appraiser shall compute the interval number by dividing the total number of improved properties in the classification to be sampled by the number of appraisals to be performed.

EXAMPLE: In this example, ten appraisals are needed with a total of 397 improved commercial units. Dividing 397 by 10, 39.7 is arrived at, which is rounded down to 39. This is the interval number.

2. The selection of the first sequence number shall be accomplished by having an available disinterested person randomly select a number from one through the interval number.

EXAMPLE: In this example a number from 1 to 39 is to be selected. The person randomly selected number 2.

3. The department appraiser shall develop a systematic sequence of numbers equal to the number of appraisals required. Starting with the randomly selected number previously picked by the disinterested

person, add the interval number to this number and to each resulting number until a systematic sequence of numbers is obtained.

EXAMPLE: In this example ten appraisals are needed, so a sequence of ten numbers must be developed. Starting with number 2 and adding the interval number of 39 to it, each resulting number provides the following systematic sequence: 2, 41, 80, 119, 158, 197, 236, 275, 314, 353.

(2) Number of improved properties.

1. City jurisdictions—Utilizing the assessment book or a computer printout which follows the same order as the assessment book, consecutively number all the improved units and document the procedure.

2. County jurisdictions—Put the name of each city or township having improved units in the classification to be sampled into a hat. Draw each one out of the hat and record its name in the order of its draw. Likewise, record the respective number of improved units for each. Then consecutively number all the improved units and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

City or Township	Number of Improved Commercial Units	Code Numbers
Franklin Twp.	4	1-4
Pleasant View	60	5-64
Jackson Twp.	9	65-73
Johnston	100	74-173
Polk Twp.	10	174-183
Washington Twp.	14	184-197
Maryville	106	198-303
Camden Twp.	10	304-313
Salem	84	314-397
Total	<u>397</u>	

(3) The department appraiser shall determine the location of the improved properties selected for appraisal and document the procedure.

EXAMPLE:

City or Township	Number of Improved Commercial Units	Code Numbers	Sequence Number	Entry on Rolls
Franklin Twp.	4	1-4	2	2
Pleasant View	60	5-64	41	37
Jackson Twp.	9	65-73		
Johnston	100	74-173	80,119,158	7,46,85
Polk Twp.	10	174-183		
Washington Twp.	14	184-197	197	14
Maryville	106	198-303	236,275	39,78
Camden Twp.	10	304-313		
Salem	84	314-397	314,353	1,40
Total	<u>397</u>			

1. The department appraiser shall locate the property to be appraised by finding the relationship between the sequence numbers and the code numbers and identify the property.

EXAMPLE: The first sequence number is 2. Since the improved commercial properties in Franklin Township have been assigned code numbers 1 to 4, sequence number 2 is in that location.

To identify this property, examine the Franklin Township assessment roll book and stop at the second improved commercial entry.

The department appraiser shall document the parcel number, owner's name, and legal description of this property.

2. The department appraiser shall appraise the property selected unless it is ineligible because of any of the following restrictions:

Vacant building

Current year sale

Partial assessment

Prior equalization appraisal

Tax-exempt

Only one portion of a total property unit (example—a parking lot of a grocery store)

Value established by court action

Value is not more than \$5,000

Building on leased land

3. The department appraiser shall determine a substitute property if the originally selected one is ineligible. In ascending order, select code numbers until an eligible property is found.

EXAMPLE: If code number 2 is ineligible, use code number 3 as a substitute. If code number 3 is ineligible, use code number 4, etc., until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in 71.12(3) "c"(3)"3" moves the substitute property to a city or township, select substitute code numbers in descending order until an eligible property is found.

If the procedure described in the previous paragraph moves the substitute property to a preceding city or township, go back to the procedure of 71.12(3) "c"(3)"3" even if it moves the substitute property to a subsequent city or township.

4. Select an alternate property for the originally selected property which also would be eligible. This is necessary because at the time of appraisal the property may be found to be ineligible due to one of the restrictions in 71.12(3) "c"(3)"2." Alternate properties are selected by using the same procedure described in 71.12(3) "c"(3)"3."

5. Follow procedures 71.12(3) "c"(3), items "1" to "4," for each of the other originally selected sequence numbers.

71.12(4) Industrial real estate. It is not possible to determine the level of assessment of industrial real estate by using accepted equalization methods. The lack of sales data precludes the use of an assessment/sales ratio study, the diverse nature of industrial real estate precludes the use of a countywide or citywide income capitalization study, and the limited number of industrial properties precludes the use of sample appraisals. The level of assessment of industrial real estate can only be determined by the valuation of individual parcels of industrial real estate. Any attempt to equalize industrial valuations by using accepted equalization methods would create an arbitrary result. However, under the circumstances set forth in Iowa Code subsection 421.17(10), the director may correct any errors in such assessments which are brought to the director's attention.

71.12(5) Personal property. Rescinded IAB 10/25/95, effective 11/29/95.

71.12(6) Centrally assessed property. Property assessed by the director of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 428 and 433 to 438, inclusive, is equalized internally by the director in the making of the assessments. Further, the assessments are equalized with the aggregate valuations of other classes of property as a result of actions taken by the director of revenue pursuant to rule 71.11(441).

71.12(7) Miscellaneous real estate. Since it is not possible to use accepted equalization methods to determine the level of assessment of mineral rights and interstate railroad and toll bridges, these classes of property shall not be subject to equalization by the director of revenue. However, under the circumstances

set forth in Iowa Code section 421.17(10), the director may correct any errors in assessments which are brought to the director's attention.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.21, 441.47, 441.48 and 441.49.
[ARC 7726B, IAB 4/22/09, effective 5/27/09]

701—71.13(441) Tentative equalization notices. Prior to the issuance of the final equalization order to each county auditor, a tentative equalization notice providing for proposed percentage adjustments to the aggregate valuations of classes of property as set forth in rule 701—71.12(441) shall be mailed to the county auditor whose valuations are proposed to be adjusted. The tentative equalization notice constitutes the ten days' notice required by Iowa Code section 441.48.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.47 and 441.48.

701—71.14(441) Hearings before the director.

71.14(1) Protests. Written or oral protest against the proposed percentage adjustments as set forth in the tentative equalization notice issued by the director of revenue shall be made only on behalf of the affected assessing jurisdiction. The protests shall be made only by officials of the assessing jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, an assessing jurisdiction's city council or board of supervisors, assessor, or city or county attorney. An assessing jurisdiction may submit a written protest in lieu of making an oral presentation before the director, or may submit an oral protest supported by written documentation. Protests against the adjustments in valuation contained in the tentative equalization notices shall be limited to a statement of the error or errors complained of and shall include such facts as might lead to their correction. No other factors shall be considered by the director in reviewing the protests. Protests and hearings on tentative equalization notices before the director are excluded from the provisions of the Iowa Administrative Procedure Act governing contested case proceedings.

71.14(2) Conduct of hearing. The director shall schedule each hearing so as to allow the same amount of time within which each assessing jurisdiction can make its presentation. During the hearing each assessing jurisdiction shall be afforded the opportunity to present evidence relevant to its protest. The director or the director's designated representative shall preside at the hearing which shall be held at the time and place designated by the director or such other time and place as may be mutually agreed upon by the director and the protesting assessing jurisdiction.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.48.

701—71.15(441) Final equalization order. After the tentative equalization notice has been issued and an opportunity for a hearing described in rule 71.14(441) has been afforded, the director shall issue a final equalization order by mail to the county auditor. The order shall specify any percentage adjustments in the aggregate valuations of any class of property to be made effective for the county as of January 1 of the year in which the order is issued. The final equalization order shall be issued on or before October 1 unless for good cause it cannot be issued until after October 1. The final equalization order shall be implemented by the county auditor.

An assessing jurisdiction may appeal a final equalization order to the state board of tax review. The protest must be filed or postmarked not later than ten days after the date the final equalization order is issued.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.48 and 441.49.

701—71.16(441) Alternative method of implementing equalization orders.

71.16(1) Application for permission to use an alternative method. A request by an assessing jurisdiction for permission to use an alternative method of applying the final equalization order must be made in writing to the director of revenue within ten days from the date the county auditor receives the final equalization order. The written request shall include the following information:

a. Facts evidencing the need to use an alternative method of implementing the final equalization order. Such facts shall clearly show that the proposed method is essential to ensure compliance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 441.21.

b. The exact methods to be employed in implementing the requested alternative method for each class of property.

c. The specific method of notifying affected property owners of the valuation changes.

d. Evidence that the alternative method will result in an aggregate property class valuation adjustment equivalent to that prescribed in the director's final equalization order.

The director of revenue shall review each written request for an alternative method and shall notify the assessing jurisdiction of acceptance or rejection of the proposed method by October 15. The assessing jurisdiction shall immediately inform the county auditor of the director's decision. The county auditor shall include a description of any approved alternative method in the required newspaper publication of the final equalization order. In those instances where the approved alternative method includes individual property owner notification, the publication shall not be considered proper notice to the affected property owners.

71.16(2) *Implementation of alternative method.* If an alternative method is approved by the director of revenue, any individual notification of property owners shall be completed by the assessor by not later than October 25.

71.16(3) *Appeal by property owners.* If an alternative method is approved by the director of revenue, the special session of the local board of review to hear equalization protests shall be extended to November 30. In such instances, protests may be filed up to and including November 4.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.49.

701—71.17(441) Special session of boards of review.

71.17(1) *Grounds for protest.* The only ground for protesting to the local board of review reconvened in special session pursuant to Iowa Code section 441.49 is that the application of the director's final equalization order results in a value greater than that permitted under Iowa Code section 441.21.

71.17(2) *Authority of board of review.* When in special session to hear protests resulting from equalization adjustments, the local board of review shall only act upon protests for those properties for which valuations have been increased as a result of the application of the director of revenue's final equalization order.

The local board of review may adjust valuations of those properties it deems warranted, but under no circumstance shall the adjustment result in a value less than that which existed prior to the application of the director's equalization order. The local board of review shall not adjust the valuation of properties for which no protests have been filed.

71.17(3) *Report of board of review.* In the report to the director of revenue of action taken by the local board of review in special session, the board of review shall report the aggregate valuation adjustments by class of property as well as all other information required by the director of revenue to determine if such actions may have substantially altered the equalization order.

71.17(4) *Meetings of board of review.* If the final equalization order does not increase the valuation of any class of property, the board of review is not required to meet during the special session. If the final equalization order increases the valuation of one or more classes of property but no protests are filed by the times specified in Iowa Code section 441.49, the board of review is not required to meet during the special session.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.17(10) and 441.49.

701—71.18(441) Judgment of assessors and local boards of review. Nothing stated in these rules should be construed as prohibiting the exercise of honest judgment, as provided by law, by the assessors and local boards of review in matters pertaining to valuing and assessing of individual properties within their respective jurisdictions.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.17 and 441.35.

701—71.19(441) Conference boards.**71.19(1) Establishment and abolition of office.**

a. As referred to in Iowa Code section 441.1, the term “federal census” includes any special census conducted by the Bureau of the Census of the U.S. Department of Commerce as well as the Bureau’s decennial census.

b. Within 60 days of receiving the certified results of a federal census indicating the population of a city having its own assessor has fallen below 10,000, the city council of the city shall repeal the ordinance providing for its own assessor.

c. Whenever the office of city assessor is abolished, all moneys in the assessment expense fund and the special appraiser fund shall be transferred to the appropriate accounts in the county assessor’s office, and all equipment and supplies shall be transferred to the county assessor’s office. Employees of the city assessor’s office may, at the discretion of the county assessor, become employees of the county assessor. However, any deputy assessor of the city may not be appointed a deputy county assessor unless certified as eligible for appointment pursuant to Iowa Code sections 441.5 and 441.10.

71.19(2) Membership.

a. *County conference boards.* A county conference board consists of the county board of supervisors, the mayor of each incorporated city in the county whose property is assessed by the county assessor, and one member of the board of directors of each high school district in the county, provided the member is a resident of the county. Members representing school districts serve one-year terms, and the board of directors each year must notify the clerk of the conference board of its representative on the conference board. A member of the board of directors of a school district may serve on the county conference board even though the member lives in a city having its own assessor (1978 O.A.G. 466).

b. *City conference boards.* A city conference board consists of the county board of supervisors, the city council, and the entire board of directors of each school district whose property is assessed by the city assessor.

71.19(3) Voting.

a. Votes on matters before a conference board shall be by units as provided in Iowa Code section 441.2. At least two members of each voting unit must be present in order for the unit to cast a vote (1960 O.A.G. 226). In the event the vote of the members of a voting unit ends in a tie, that unit shall not cast a vote on the particular matter before the conference board.

b. If a member of a conference board is absent from a meeting, the member’s vote may not be cast by another person, except that a mayor pro tem as provided in Iowa Code section 372.14(3) may vote for the mayor when the mayor is absent from or unable to perform official duties.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 441.2.

701—71.20(441) Board of review.**71.20(1) Membership.**

a. *Occupation of members.* One member of the county board of review must be actively engaged in farming as that member’s primary occupation. However, it is not necessary for a board of review to have as a member one licensed real estate broker and one registered architect or person experienced in the building and construction field if the person cannot be located after a good faith effort to do so has been made by the conference board (1966 O.A.G. 416). In determining eligibility for membership on a board of review, a retired person is not considered to be employed in the occupation pursued prior to retirement, unless that person remains in reasonable contact with the former occupation, including some participation in matters associated with that occupation.

b. *Residency of members.* A person must be a resident of the assessor jurisdiction served to qualify for appointment as a member of the board of review. However, a member changing assessing jurisdiction residency after appointment to the board may continue to serve on the board until the member’s current term of office expires.

c. *Term of office.* The term of office of members of boards of review shall be for six years and shall be staggered as provided in Iowa Code section 441.31. In the event of the death, resignation, or

removal from office of a member of a board of review, the conference board or city council shall appoint a successor to serve the unexpired term of the previous incumbent.

d. Membership on other boards. A member of a board of review shall not at the same time serve on either the conference board or the examining board, or be an employee of the assessor's office (1948 O.A.G. 120, 1960 O.A.G. 226).

e. Number of members. A conference board or city council may at any time change the composition of a board of review to either three or five members. To reduce membership from five members to three members, the conference board or city council shall not appoint successors to fill the next two vacancies which occur (1970 O.A.G. 342). To increase membership from three members to five members, the conference board or city council shall appoint two additional members whose initial terms shall expire at such times so that no two board members' terms expire at the end of the same year. Also, the conference board or city council may increase the membership of the board of review by an additional two members if it determines that a large number of protests warrant the emergency appointments. If the board of review has ten members, not more than four additional members may be appointed by the conference board. The terms of the emergency members will not exceed two years.

f. Removal from office. A member of a board of review may be removed from office by the conference board or city council but only after specific charges have been filed by the conference board or city council.

g. Appointment of members. Members of a county board of review shall be appointed by the county conference board. Members of a city board of review shall be appointed by the city conference board in cities with an assessor or by the city council in cities without an assessor. A city without an assessor can only have a board of review if the population of the city is 75,000 or more. A city with a population of more than 125,000 may appoint a city board of review or request the county conference board to appoint a ten-member county board of review.

71.20(2) Sessions of boards of review.

a. It is mandatory that a board of review convene on May 1 and adjourn no later than May 31 of each year. However, if either date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the board of review shall convene or adjourn on the following Monday.

b. Extended session. If a board of review determines it will be unable to complete its work by May 31, it may request that the director of revenue extend its session up to July 15. The request must be signed by a majority of the membership of the board of review and must contain the reasons the board of review cannot complete its work by May 31. During the extended session, a board of review may perform the same functions as during its regular session unless specifically limited by the director of revenue.

c. Special session. If a board of review is reconvened by the director of revenue pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.17, the board of review shall perform those functions specified in the order of the director of revenue and shall perform no other functions.

71.20(3) Actions initiated by boards of review.

a. Internal equalization of assessments. A board of review in reassessment years as provided in Iowa Code section 428.4 has the power to equalize individual assessments as established by the assessor, but cannot make percentage adjustments in the aggregate valuations of classes of property (1966 O.A.G. 416). In nonreassessment years, a board of review can adjust the valuation of an entire class of property by adjusting all assessment by a uniform percentage. Nothing contained in this rule shall restrict the director from exercising the responsibilities set forth in Iowa Code section 421.17.

b. Omitted assessments. A board of review may assess for taxation any property which was not assessed by the assessor, including property which the assessor determines erroneously is not subject to taxation by virtue of enjoying an exempt status (*Talley v. Brown*, 146 Iowa 360, 125 N.W. 248 (1910)).

c. Notice to taxpayers. If the value of any property is increased by a board of review or a board of review assesses property not previously assessed by the assessor, the person to whom the property is assessed shall be notified by regular mail of the board's action. The notification shall state that the taxpayer may protest the action by filing a written protest with the board of review within five days of the date of the notice. After at least five days have passed since notifying the taxpayer, the board of review

shall meet to take final action on the matter, including the consideration of any protest filed. However, if the valuations of all properties within a class of property are raised or lowered by a uniform percentage in a nonreassessment year, notice to taxpayers need be provided only by newspaper publication as described in Iowa Code section 441.35.

71.20(4) Appeals to boards of review.

a. A board of review may act only upon written protests which have been filed with the board of review between April 16 and May 5, inclusive. In the event May 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, protests filed the following Monday shall be considered to have been timely filed. Protests postmarked by May 5 or the following Monday if May 5 falls on a Saturday or Sunday shall also be considered to have been timely filed. All protests must be in writing and signed by the taxpayer or the taxpayer's authorized agent. A written request for an oral hearing must be made at the time of filing the protest and may be made by checking the appropriate box on the form prescribed by the department of revenue. Protests may be filed for previous years if the taxpayer discovers that a mathematical or clerical error was made in the assessment, provided the taxes have not been fully paid or otherwise legally discharged. The protester may combine on one form assessment protests on parcels separately assessed if the same grounds are relied upon as the basis for protesting each separate assessment. If an oral hearing is requested on more than one of the protests, the person making the combined protests may request that the oral hearings be held consecutively. A board of review may allow protests to be filed in electronic format. Protests transmitted electronically are subject to the same deadlines as written protests.

b. Grounds for protest. Taxpayers may protest to a board of review on one or more of the grounds specified in Iowa Code section 441.37. The grounds for protest and procedures for considering protests are as follows:

(1) The assessment is not equitable when compared with those of similar properties in the same assessing district. If this ground is a basis for the protest, the protest must contain the legal descriptions and assessments of the comparable properties. The comparable properties selected by the taxpayer must be located within the same assessing district as the property for which the protest has been filed (*Maytag Co. v. Partridge*, 210 N.W.2d 584 (Iowa 1973)). In considering a protest based upon this ground, the board of review should examine carefully all information used to determine the assessment of the subject property and the comparable properties and determine that those properties are indeed comparable to the subject property. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to establish that the other properties submitted are comparable to the subject property and that inequalities exist in the assessments (*Chicago & N. W. Ry. Co. v. Iowa State Tax Commission*, 257 Iowa 1359, 137 N.W.2d 246(1965)).

(2) The property is assessed at more than its actual value as defined in Iowa Code section 441.21. If this ground is used, the taxpayer must state both the amount by which the property is overassessed and the amount considered to be the actual value of the property.

(3) The property is not assessable and should be exempt from taxation. If using this ground, taxpayers must state the reasons why it is felt the property is not assessable.

(4) There is an error in the assessment. An error in the assessment would most probably involve erroneous mathematical computations or errors in listing the property. The improper classification of property also constitutes an error in the assessment. If this ground is used, the taxpayer's protest must state the specific error alleged.

A board of review must determine:

1. If an error exists, and
2. How the error might be corrected.

(5) There is fraud in the assessment. If this ground of protest is used, the taxpayer's protest must state the specific fraud alleged, and the board of review must first determine if there is validity to the taxpayer's allegation. If it is determined there is fraud in the assessment, the board of review shall take action to correct the assessment and report the matter to the director of revenue.

(6) There has been a change of value of real estate since the last assessment. The board of review must determine that the value of the property as of January 1 of the current year has changed since January 1 of the previous reassessment year. This is the only ground upon which a protest pertaining to the valuation of a property can be filed in a year in which the assessor has not assessed or reassessed the

property pursuant to Iowa Code section 428.4. In a year subsequent to a year in which a property has been assessed or reassessed pursuant to Iowa Code section 428.4, a taxpayer cannot protest to the board of review based upon actions taken in the year in which the property was assessed or reassessed (*James Black Dry Goods Co. v. Board of Review for City of Waterloo*, 260 Iowa 1269, 151 N.W.2d 534 (1967); *Commercial Merchants Nat'l Bank and Trust Co. v. Board of Review of Sioux City*, 229 Iowa 1081, 296 N.W. 203 (1941)).

c. Disposition of protests. After reaching a decision on a protest, the board of review shall give the taxpayer written notice of its decision. The notice shall contain the following information:

- (1) The valuation and classification of the property as determined by the board of review.
- (2) If the protest was based on the ground the property was not assessable, the notice shall state whether the exemption is allowed and the value at which the property would be assessed in the absence of the exemption.
- (3) The specific reasons for the board's decision with respect to the protest.
- (4) That the board of review's decision may be appealed to the district court within 20 days of the board's adjournment or May 31, whichever date is later. If the adjournment date is known, the date shall be stated on the notice. If the adjournment date is not known, the notice shall state the date will be no earlier than May 31. Notice of the appeal shall be served on the chairperson, presiding officer, or clerk of the board of review after the written notice of appeal has been filed with the clerk of district court.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 441.31 to 441.37 and Iowa Code Supplement section 441.38 as amended by 2006 Iowa Acts, House File 2794.

701—71.21(421,17A) Property assessment appeal board.

71.21(1) Establishment, membership, and location of the property assessment appeal board.

a. A statewide property assessment appeal board is created for the purpose of establishing a consistent, fair, and equitable property assessment appeal process. The statewide property assessment appeal board is established within the department of revenue. The board's principal office shall be in the office of the department of revenue.

b. The property assessment appeal board shall consist of three members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the senate. The members shall be appointed to staggered six-year terms beginning initially on January 1, 2007, and ending as provided in Iowa Code section 69.19. Members' subsequent terms shall begin and end as provided in Iowa Code section 69.19. The governor shall appoint from the members a chairperson, subject to confirmation by the senate, of the board to a two-year term. Vacancies on the board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as regular appointments are made.

Each member of the property assessment appeal board shall be qualified by virtue of at least two years' experience in the area of government, corporate, or private practice relating to property appraisal and property tax administration. One member of the board shall be a certified real estate appraiser or hold a professional appraisal designation, one member shall be an attorney practicing in the area of state and local taxation or property tax appraisals, and one member shall be a professional with experience in the field of accounting or finance and with experience in state and local taxation matters. No more than two members of the board may be from the same political party as that term is defined in Iowa Code section 43.2.

c. The property assessment appeal board shall organize by appointing a secretary who shall take the same oath of office as the members of the board. The board may employ additional personnel as it finds necessary. All personnel employed by the board shall be considered state employees and are subject to the merit system provisions of Iowa Code chapter 8A, subchapter IV.

71.21(2) Powers and duties of the board. The property assessment appeal board shall:

a. Review any final decision, finding, ruling, determination, or order of a local board of review relating to assessment protests, valuation, or application of an equalization order.

b. Affirm, reverse, or modify a final decision, finding, ruling, determination, or order of a local board of review.

c. Order the payment or refund of property taxes in a matter over which the board has jurisdiction.

d. Grant other relief or issue writs, orders, or directives that the board deems necessary or appropriate in the process of disposing of a matter over which the board has jurisdiction.

e. Subpoena documents and witnesses and administer oaths.

f. Adopt administrative rules pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A for the administration and implementation of its powers, including rules for practice and procedure for protests filed with the board, the manner in which hearings on appeals of assessments shall be conducted, filing fees to be imposed by the board, and for the determination of the correct assessment of property which is the subject of an appeal.

g. Adopt administrative rules pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A necessary for the preservation of order and the regulation of proceedings before the board, including forms or notice and the service thereof, which rules shall conform as nearly as possible to those in use in the courts of this state.

h. If an appeal to district court is taken from the action of the property assessment appeal board, notice of appeal shall be served as an original notice on the secretary of the board after the written notice of appeal has been filed with the clerk of district court.

71.21(3) General counsel. The property assessment appeal board shall employ a competent attorney to serve as its general counsel, and assistants to the general counsel as it finds necessary for the full and efficient discharge of its duties. The general counsel is the attorney for, and legal advisor of, the board. The general counsel or an assistant to the general counsel shall provide the necessary legal advice to the board in all matters and shall represent the board in all actions instituted in a court challenging the validity of a rule or order of the board. The general counsel shall devote full time to the duties of the office. During employment as general counsel to the board, the counsel shall not be a member of a political committee, contribute to a political campaign, participate in a political campaign, or be a candidate for partisan political office. The general counsel and assistants to the general counsel shall be considered state employees and are subject to the merit system provisions of Iowa Code chapter 8A, subchapter IV.

71.21(4) Compensation. The members of the property assessment appeal board shall receive compensation from the state commensurate with the salary of a district judge. The members of the board shall be considered state employees for purposes of salary and benefits and are subject to the merit system provisions of Iowa Code chapter 8A, subchapter IV. Members of the board and any employees of the board, when required to travel in the discharge of official duties, shall be paid their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

71.21(5) Appeal board review committee. Effective January 1, 2012, a property assessment appeal board review committee is established. Staffing assistance to the committee shall be provided by the department of revenue. The committee shall consist of six members of the general assembly, two appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one appointed by the minority leader of the senate, two appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; the director of revenue or the director's designee; a county assessor appointed by the Iowa state association of counties; and a city assessor appointed by the Iowa league of cities.

The property assessment appeal board review committee shall review the activities of the property assessment appeal board since its inception. The review committee may recommend the revision of any rules, regulations, directives, or forms relating to the activities of the property assessment appeal board.

The review committee shall report to the general assembly by January 15, 2013. The report shall include any recommended changes in laws relating to the property assessment appeal board, the reasons for the committee's recommendations, and any other information the committee deems advisable.

71.21(6) Applicability and scope. These subrules set forth herein govern the proceedings for all cases in which the property assessment appeal board (board) has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the action of a local board of review. For the purpose of these subrules, the following definitions shall apply:

"Appellant" means the party filing the notice of appeal with the secretary of the property assessment appeal board.

"Board" means the property assessment appeal board as created by chapter 150 of the Acts of the Eighty-first General Assembly and governed by Iowa Code chapter 17A and sections 421.1A and 441.37A.

"Department" means the Iowa department of revenue.

“Local board of review” means the board of review as defined by Iowa Code section 441.31.

“Party” means a property owner, an aggrieved taxpayer, an assessor, an appellant or an appellee in an appeals process before the board.

“Presiding officer” means the chairperson, member or members of the property assessment appeal board who preside over an appeal of proceedings before the property assessment appeal board.

“Secretary” means the secretary for the property assessment appeal board.

71.21(7) Appeal and jurisdiction. Notice of appeal confers jurisdiction for the board. The procedure for appeals and parameters for jurisdiction are as follows:

a. Jurisdiction is conferred upon the board by written notice of appeal given to the secretary. The written notice of appeal shall include a petition setting forth the basis of the appeal and the relief sought. The written notice of appeal shall be filed with the secretary within 20 days after the postmarked date of the disposition of the protest by the local board of review. Appeals postmarked within 20 days after the postmarked date of the disposition of the protest by the local board of review shall also be considered to have been timely filed. The appellant may appeal the action of the board of review relating to protests of assessment, valuation, or the application of an equalization order. A party may request to participate by telephone in any hearing before the board.

b. The notice of appeal must be proper in format and content as set forth in subrule 71.21(9), which governs the notice of appeal. Notice of appeal may be delivered in person, mailed by first-class mail, or delivered to an established courier service for immediate delivery to the secretary of the board. The mailing address for the board is Secretary of the Property Assessment Appeal Board, 401 SW 7th Street, Suite D, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4634.

71.21(8) Scope of review. The board shall determine anew all questions arising before the local board of review which relate to the liability of the property to assessment or the amount thereof. The board will consider only those grounds set out in the protest to the local board of review. However, additional evidence may be introduced in the board proceedings relevant to the grounds set out in the protest. The board shall afford each party an opportunity to present briefs and oral arguments. There shall be no presumption as to the correctness of the valuation of the assessment appealed from.

71.21(9) Form of appeal. The written notice of appeal shall contain a caption in the following form:

THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD 401 SW 7th STREET, SUITE D DES MOINES, IOWA 50309-4634		
IN THE MATTER OF _____ (Appellant’s name and address)	}	NOTICE OF APPEAL and PETITION DOCKET NO. _____ (Docket No. assigned by board)

The notice of appeal shall include:

- a. The appellant’s name and mailing address;
- b. A copy of the petition to the local board of review;
- c. Copies of all evidence submitted to the local board of review in support of the petition to the local board of review;
- d. A copy of the postmarked envelope and a copy of the letter of disposition by the local board of review;
- e. A short and plain statement of the claim showing that the appellant is entitled to relief;
- f. The relief sought; and
- g. The signature of the appealing party or the party’s legal representative.

To have legal representation before the board, a party must file a valid and complete power of attorney form as provided by the board or in compliance with the power of attorney form provided by the board.

71.21(10) Notice to local board of review. The secretary shall mail a copy of the appellant’s written notice of appeal and petition to the local board of review whose decision is being appealed. Notice to all affected taxing districts shall be deemed to have been given when written notice is provided to the local board of review.

71.21(11) Certification by local board of review. Within 14 days after notice of appeal is given, the local board of review shall certify to the board all records, documents, or reports, or disposition order or directive from which an appeal is taken, the complete property record card for the subject property, the protest hearing minutes of the local board of review kept pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 21, and all other pertinent information.

The local board of review shall submit to the board in writing the name, address, and telephone number of the attorney representing the local board of review before the board. The local board of review may make a written request for additional time to certify a copy of its record to the board.

71.21(12) Docketing. Appeals shall be assigned consecutive docket numbers. Records consisting of the case name and the corresponding docket number assigned to the case must be maintained by the secretary. The records of each case shall also include each action and each act done, with the proper dates as follows:

- a. The title of the appeal including jurisdiction and parcel identification number;
- b. Brief statement of the grounds for the appeal and the relief sought;
- c. Postmarked date of the local board of review's letter of disposition;
- d. The manner and date/time of service of notice of appeal;
- e. Date of notice of hearing;
- f. Date of hearing; and
- g. The decision by the board, or other disposition of the case, and date thereof.

71.21(13) Appearances. A party may appear in person, by legal representative or through an attorney. In order to be considered the legal representative before the board, a valid power of attorney form as provided by the board or in compliance with the power of attorney form provided by the board must be properly completed and filed with the board. An attorney shall file an appearance. All orders, correspondence, or other documents shall be served on the designated individual.

71.21(14) Filing of papers. After the notice of appeal and petition have been filed, either in person, mailed by first-class mail, or delivered to an established courier service for immediate delivery, all motions, pleadings, briefs, and other papers to be filed shall be filed with the secretary at 401 SW 7th Street, Suite D, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4634. Motions, pleadings, briefs, and other papers to be filed with the board shall be delivered in person, mailed by first-class mail, or delivered to an established courier service. Parties shall also send copies to all other parties of record, unless represented by counsel of record, and then to such counsel.

- a. For most filings in a docket made with the board, only an original is required.
- b. For exhibits and other documents to be introduced at hearing, an original plus two copies are required.
- c. The board or presiding officer may request additional copies.

71.21(15) Motions. All motions shall be in writing, shall be filed with the secretary and shall contain the reasons and grounds supporting the motion. The board shall act upon such motions as justice may require. Motions based on matters which do not appear of record shall be supported by affidavit. Any party may file a written response to a motion no later than 10 days from the date the motion is filed, unless the time period is extended or shortened by the board or presiding officer.

71.21(16) Authority of board to issue procedural orders. The board may issue preliminary orders regarding procedural matters. The secretary shall mail copies of all procedural orders to the parties.

71.21(17) Members participating. An appeal may be reviewed and considered by less than a majority of the members of the board, and the chairperson of the board may assign members to consider appeals. Orders and decisions shall be signed by one member of the board and shall name participating members. Decisions shall affirm, modify, or reverse the decision, order, or directive from which an appeal was made. In order for the decision to be valid, a majority of the board must concur on the decision on appeal.

71.21(18) Notice of hearing. Unless otherwise designated by the board, the hearing shall be held in the hearing room of the board at 401 SW 7th Street, Suite D, Des Moines, Iowa. All hearings are open to the public. If a hearing is requested, the secretary shall mail a notice of hearing to the parties at least 30 days prior to the hearing. The notice of hearing shall contain the following information:

- a. A statement of the date, time, and place of the hearing;
- b. A statement of legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;
- c. A reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved;
- d. That the parties may appear and present oral arguments;
- e. That the parties may submit evidence and briefs;
- f. That the hearing will be electronically recorded by the board;
- g. That a party may obtain a certified court reporter for the hearing at the party's own expense;
- h. That audio visual aids and equipment are to be provided by the party intending to use them;
- i. A statement that, upon submission of the appeal, the board will take the matter under advisement. A letter of disposition will be mailed to the parties; and
- j. A compliance notice required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

71.21(19) *Transcript of hearing.* All hearings shall be electronically recorded. Any party may provide a certified court reporter at the party's own expense. Any party may request a transcription of the hearing. The board reserves the right to impose a charge for copies and transcripts.

71.21(20) *Continuance.* Any hearing may be continued for "good cause." Requests for continuance prior to the hearing shall be in writing and promptly filed with the secretary of the board immediately upon "the cause" becoming known. An emergency oral continuance may be obtained from the board or presiding officer based on "good cause" and at the discretion of the board or presiding officer. In determining whether to grant a continuance, the board or presiding officer may consider:

- a. Prior continuances;
- b. The interests of all parties;
- c. The likelihood of informal settlement;
- d. The existence of an emergency;
- e. Any objection;
- f. Any applicable time requirements;
- g. The existence of a conflict in the schedules of counsel, parties, or witnesses;
- h. The timeliness of the request; and
- i. Other relevant factors.

71.21(21) *Telephone proceedings.* The board, at its discretion and based on "good cause," may conduct a telephone conference in which all parties have an opportunity to participate. The board will determine the location of the parties and witnesses for telephone hearings. The convenience of the witnesses or parties, as well as the nature of the case, will be considered when the location is chosen.

71.21(22) *Disqualification of board member.* A board member or members must, on their own motion or on a motion from a party in the proceeding, withdraw from participating in an appeal if there are circumstances that warrant disqualification.

a. A board member or members shall withdraw from participation in the making of any proposed or final decision in an appeal before the board if that member is involved in one of the following circumstances:

- (1) Has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a representative of a party;
- (2) Has personally investigated, prosecuted, or advocated in connection with the appeal, the specific controversy underlying that appeal, or another pending factually related matter, or a pending factually related controversy that may culminate in an appeal involving the same parties;
- (3) Is subject to the authority, direction, or discretion of any person who has personally investigated, prosecuted, or advocated in connection with that matter, the specific controversy underlying the appeal, or a pending factually related matter or controversy involving the same parties;
- (4) Has acted as counsel to any person who is a private party to that proceeding within the past two years;
- (5) Has a personal financial interest in the outcome of the appeal or any other significant personal interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the appeal;
- (6) Has a spouse or relative within the third degree of relationship who:
 - 1. Is a party to the appeal, or an officer, director or trustee of a party;
 - 2. Is a lawyer in the appeal;

3. Is known to have an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the appeal;
or

4. Is likely to be a material witness in the appeal; or

(7) Has any other legally sufficient cause to withdraw from participation in the decision making in that appeal.

b. Motion for disqualification. If a party asserts disqualification on any appropriate ground, including those listed in paragraph “a,” the party shall file a motion supported by an affidavit pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.11. The motion must be filed as soon as practicable after the reason alleged in the motion becomes known to the party. If, during the course of the hearing, a party first becomes aware of evidence of bias or other grounds for disqualification, the party may move for disqualification, but must establish the grounds by the introduction of evidence into the record.

If a majority of the board determines that disqualification is appropriate, the board member shall withdraw. If a majority of the board determines that withdrawal is not required, the board shall enter an order to that effect. A party asserting disqualification may seek an interlocutory appeal and a stay as provided under 701—Chapter 7.

c. The term “personally investigated” means taking affirmative steps to interview witnesses directly or to obtain documents or other information directly. The term “personally investigated” does not include general direction and supervision of assigned investigators, unsolicited receipt of information which is relayed to assigned investigators, review of another person’s investigative work product in the course of determining whether there is probable cause to initiate a proceeding, or exposure to factual information while performing other functions of the board, including fact gathering for purposes other than investigation of the matter which culminates in an appeal. Factual information relevant to the merits of an appeal received by a person who later serves as presiding officer or a member of the board shall be disclosed if required by Iowa Code section 17A.11 and this rule.

d. Withdrawal. In a situation where a presiding officer or any other board member knows of information which might reasonably be deemed to be a basis for disqualification and decides voluntary withdrawal is unnecessary, that person shall submit the relevant information for the record by affidavit and shall provide for the record a statement of the reasons for the determination that withdrawal is unnecessary.

71.21(23) Consolidation and severance. A majority of the board may determine, in its discretion, if consolidation or severance of issues or proceedings should be performed in order to efficiently resolve matters on appeal before the board.

a. *Consolidation.* The presiding officer may consolidate any or all matters at issue in two or more appeal proceedings where:

- (1) The matters at issue involve common parties or common questions of fact or law;
- (2) Consolidation would expedite and simplify consideration of the issues involved; and
- (3) Consolidation would not adversely affect the rights of any of the parties to those proceedings.

b. *Severance.* The presiding officer may, for good cause shown, order any appeal proceedings or portions of the proceedings severed.

71.21(24) Withdrawal. An appellant may withdraw the appeal prior to the hearing. Such a withdrawal of an appeal must be in writing and signed by the appellant or the appellant’s legal representative. Unless otherwise provided, withdrawal shall be with prejudice and the appellant shall not be able to refile the appeal. Within 20 days of the board granting a withdrawal of appeal, the appellant may make a motion to reopen the file and rescind the withdrawal based upon fraud, duress, undue influence, or mutual mistake.

71.21(25) Prehearing conference. An informal conference of parties may be ordered at the discretion of the board or presiding officer or at the request of any party for any appropriate purpose. Any agreement reached at the conference shall be made a part of the record in the manner directed by the board or presiding officer.

71.21(26) Hearing procedures. A party to the appeal may request a hearing, or the appeal may proceed without a hearing. The local board of review may be present and participate at such hearing.

a. Authority of presiding officer. The presiding officer presides at the hearing and may rule on motions, require briefs, issue a decision, and issue such orders and rulings as will ensure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.

b. Representation. Parties to the appeal have the right to participate or to be represented in all hearings. Any party may be represented by an attorney or another person authorized by law. To have legal representation before the board, a party must complete a power of attorney form as provided by the board or in compliance with the power of attorney form provided by the board.

c. Participation in hearing. The parties to the appeal have the right to introduce evidence relevant to the grounds set out in the protest to the local board of review. Subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the presiding officer, parties have the right to introduce evidence on issues of material fact, cross-examine witnesses present at the hearing as necessary for a full and true disclosure of the facts, present evidence in rebuttal, and submit briefs and engage in oral argument.

d. Decorum. The presiding officer shall maintain the decorum of the hearing and may refuse to admit or may expel anyone whose conduct is disorderly.

e. Conduct of the hearing. The presiding officer shall conduct the hearing in the following manner:

(1) The presiding officer shall give an opening statement briefly describing the nature of the proceedings;

(2) The parties shall be given an opportunity to present opening statements;

(3) The parties shall present their cases in the sequence determined by the presiding officer;

(4) Each witness shall be sworn or affirmed by the presiding officer and shall be subject to examination and cross-examination. The presiding officer may limit questioning in a manner consistent with law; and

(5) When all parties and witnesses have been heard, parties may be given the opportunity to present final arguments.

71.21(27) Discovery

a. Discovery procedure. Discovery procedures applicable in civil actions are available to parties in cases before the board. Unless lengthened or shortened by these rules, the board or presiding officer, time periods for compliance with discovery shall be as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

b. Discovery motions. Prior to filing any motion related to discovery, parties shall make a good-faith effort to resolve discovery disputes without the involvement of the board or presiding officer. Any motion related to discovery shall allege that the moving party has made a good-faith attempt to resolve the discovery issues involved with the opposing party. Opposing parties shall be given the opportunity to respond within 10 days of the filing of the motion unless the time is shortened by order of the board or presiding officer. The board or presiding officer may rule on the basis of the written motion and any response or may have a hearing or other proceedings on the motion.

c. Admissibility of evidence. Evidence obtained in discovery may be used in the case proceeding if that evidence would otherwise be admissible in that proceeding.

71.21(28) Subpoenas

a. Issuance of Subpoena for Witness.

(1) An agency subpoena shall be issued to a party on request. The request shall be in writing and include the name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party. In absence of good cause for permitting later action, a request for subpoena must be received at least 10 days before the scheduled hearing.

(2) Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, parties are responsible for service of their own subpoenas and payment of witness fees and mileage expenses.

b. Issuance of Subpoena for Production of Documents.

(1) An agency subpoena shall be issued to a party on request. The request shall be in writing and include the name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party. In absence of good cause for permitting later action, a request for subpoena must be received at least 20 days before the scheduled hearing.

(2) Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, parties are responsible for service of their own subpoenas.

c. Motion to quash or modify. Upon motion, the board or presiding officer may quash or modify a subpoena for any lawful reason.

71.21(29) Evidence.

a. Admissibility. The presiding officer shall rule on admissibility of evidence and may take official notice of facts in accordance with all applicable requirements of law.

b. Stipulations. Stipulation of facts by the parties is encouraged. The presiding officer may make a decision based on stipulated facts.

c. Scope of admissible evidence. Evidence in the proceeding shall be confined to the issues contained in the notice from the board prior to the hearing, unless the parties waive their right to such notice or the presiding officer determines that good cause justifies expansion of the issues. Admissible evidence is that which, in the opinion of the board, is determined to be material, relevant, or necessary for the making of a just decision. Irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded. A finding shall be based upon the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely for the conduct of their serious affairs, and may be based upon such evidence even if it would be inadmissible in a jury trial. Hearsay evidence is admissible. The rules of privilege apply in all proceedings before the board.

d. Exhibits and briefs. The party seeking admission of an exhibit must provide an opposing party with an opportunity to examine the exhibit prior to the ruling on its admissibility. Copies of documents to be used as evidence shall be provided to the opposing party at least 10 days prior to the hearing, unless the time period is extended or shortened by the board or presiding officer. All exhibits and briefs admitted into evidence shall be appropriately marked and be made part of the record. The appellant shall mark exhibits with consecutive numbers. The appellee shall mark exhibits with consecutive letters.

e. Objections. Any party may object to specific evidence or may request limits on the scope of examination or cross-examination. Such an objection shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the grounds upon which the objection is based. The objection, the ruling on the objection, and the reasons for the ruling shall be noted in the record. The presiding officer may rule on the objection at the time it is made or may reserve a ruling until the written decision.

f. Offers of proof. Whenever evidence is ruled inadmissible, the party offering that evidence may submit an offer of proof on the record. The party making the offer of proof for excluded oral testimony shall briefly summarize the testimony or, with permission of the presiding officer, present the testimony. If the excluded evidence consists of a document or exhibit, it shall be marked as part of an offer of proof and inserted in the record.

71.21(30) Settlements. Parties to a case may propose to settle all or some of the issues in the case at any time prior to the issuance of a final decision. The board or presiding officer will not approve settlements unless the settlement is reasonable in light of the whole record, consistent with law, and in the public interest. Board adoption of a settlement constitutes the final decision of the board on issues addressed in the settlement.

71.21(31) Appeals records. The record of the appeal is maintained at the office of the board. Unless the record is held confidential, parties and members of the public may examine the record and obtain copies of documents.

71.21(32) Motion to reopen records. The board or presiding officer, on the board's or presiding officer's own motion or on the motion of a party, may reopen the record for the reception of further evidence. A motion to reopen the record may be made anytime prior to the issuance of a final decision.

71.21(33) Rehearing and reconsideration.

a. Application for rehearing or reconsideration. Any party to a case may file an application for rehearing or reconsideration of the final decision. The application for rehearing or reconsideration shall be filed within 20 days after the final decision in the case is issued.

b. Contents of application. Applications for rehearing or reconsideration shall specify the findings of fact and conclusions of law claimed to be erroneous, with a brief statement of the alleged grounds of error. Any application for rehearing or reconsideration asserting that evidence has arisen since the final order was issued as a ground for rehearing or reconsideration shall present the evidence by affidavit that

includes an explanation of the competence of the person to sponsor the evidence and a brief description of the evidence sought to be included.

c. Notice to other parties. A copy of the application shall be timely mailed by the applicant to all parties of record not joining therein. If the application does not contain a certificate of service, the board shall serve copies on all parties.

d. Requirements for objections to applications for rehearing or reconsideration. An answer or objection to an application for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed within 14 days of the date the application was filed with the board, unless otherwise ordered by the board.

e. Disposition. Any application for a rehearing shall be deemed denied unless the board grants the application within 20 days after its filing.

71.21(34) Dismissal. If a party fails to appear or participate in an appeal hearing after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may dismiss the appeal unless a continuance is granted for good cause. If an appeal is dismissed for failure to appear, the board shall have no jurisdiction to consider any subsequent appeal on the appellant's protest.

71.21(35) Waivers.

a. In response to a request, or on its own motion, the board may grant a waiver from a rule adopted by the board, in whole or in part, as applied to a specific set of circumstances, if the board finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, that:

(1) The application of the rule would pose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;

(2) The waiver would not prejudice the substantial rights of any person;

(3) The provisions of the rule subject to a petition for waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and

(4) Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by means other than that prescribed in the rule for which the waiver is requested.

b. Persons requesting a waiver may submit their request in writing. The waiver request must state the relevant facts and reasons the requester believes will justify the waiver, if the reasons have not already been provided to the board in another pleading.

c. Grants or denials of waiver requests shall contain a statement of the facts and reasons upon which the decision is based. The board may condition the grant of the waiver on such reasonable conditions as appropriate to achieve the objectives of the particular rule in question. The board may at any time cancel a waiver upon appropriate notice and opportunity for hearing.

71.21(36) Appeals of board decisions. A party may seek judicial review of a decision rendered by the board by filing a written notice of appeal with the clerk of the district court within 20 days after the letter of disposition of the appeal by the board is mailed to the appellant.

71.21(37) Time requirements. Time shall be computed as provided in Iowa Code section 4.1(34).

71.21(38) Judgment of the board. Nothing stated in this rule should be construed as prohibiting the exercise of honest judgment, as provided by law, by the board in matters pertaining to valuation and assessment of individual properties.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.1, 421.1A, 421.2, 441.37A, 441.38 and 441.49 and chapter 17A.

701—71.22(428,441) Assessors.

71.22(1) Conflict of interest. An assessor shall not act as a private appraiser, or as a real estate broker or option agent in the jurisdiction in which serving as assessor (1976 O.A.G. 744).

71.22(2) Listing of property.

a. Forms. Assessors may design and use their own forms in lieu of those prescribed by the department of revenue provided that the forms contain all information contained on the prescribed form, are not substantially different from the prescribed form, and are approved by the director of revenue.

b. Assessment rolls. Assessment rolls must be prepared in duplicate for each property in a reassessment year as defined in Iowa Code section 428.4. However, the copy of the roll does not have to

be issued to a taxpayer unless there is a change in the assessment or the taxpayer requests the issuance of the duplicate copy.

c. Whenever a date specified in Iowa Code chapter 441 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the action required to be completed on or before that date shall be considered to have been timely completed if performed on or before the following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

d. Buildings erected or improvements made by a person other than the owner of the land on which they are located are to be assessed to the owner of the buildings or improvements. Unpaid taxes are a lien on the buildings or improvements and not a lien on the land on which they are located.

71.22(3) Notice of protest. If a protest or appeal is filed with the board of review, property assessment appeal board, or district court against the assessment of property valued at \$5 million or more, the assessor shall provide notice to the school district in which the property is located within ten days of the filing of the protest or the appeal, as applicable.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 428 and Iowa Code chapter 441 as amended by 2006 Iowa Acts, House File 2797.

701—71.23 and 71.24 Reserved.

701—71.25(441,443) Omitted assessments.

71.25(1) Property subject to omitted assessment.

a. Land and buildings. An omitted assessment can be made only if land or buildings were not listed and assessed by the assessor. The failure to list and assess an entire building is an omission for which an omitted assessment can be made even if the land upon which the building is located has been listed and assessed. See *Okland v. Bilyeu*, 359 N.W.2d 412 (Iowa 1984). However, the failure to consider the value added as a result of an improvement made does not constitute an omission for which an omitted assessment can be made if the building or land to which the improvement was made has been listed and assessed.

b. Previously exempt property. Property which has been erroneously determined to be exempt from taxation may be restored to taxation by the making of an omitted assessment. See *Talley v. Brown*, 146 Iowa 360, 125 N.W. 243 (1910). An omitted assessment is also made to restore to taxation previously exempt property which ceases to be eligible for an exemption.

71.25(2) Officials authorized to make an omitted assessment.

a. Local board of review. A local board of review may make an omitted assessment of property during its regular session only if the property was not listed and assessed as of January 1 of the current assessment year. For example, during its regular session which begins May 1, 1986, a local board of review may make an omitted assessment only of property that was not assessed by the assessor as of January 1, 1986. During that session, the board of review could not make an omitted assessment for an assessment year prior to 1986.

b. County auditor and local assessor. The county auditor and local assessor may make an omitted assessment. However, no omitted assessment can be made by the county auditor or local assessor if taxes based on the assessment year in question have been paid or otherwise legally discharged. For example, if a tract of land was listed and assessed and taxes levied against that assessment have been paid or legally discharged, no omitted assessment can be made of a building located upon that tract of land even though the building was not listed and assessed at the time the land was listed and assessed. See *Okland v. Bilyeu*, 359 N.W.2d 412, 417 (Iowa 1984).

c. County treasurer. The county treasurer may make an omitted assessment within two years from the date the tax list which should have contained the assessment should have been delivered to the county treasurer. For example, for the 1999 assessment year, the tax list is to be delivered to the county treasurer on or before June 30, 2000. Thus, the county treasurer may make an omitted assessment for the 1999 assessment year at any time on or before June 30, 2002. The county treasurer may make an omitted assessment of a building even if taxes levied against the land upon which the building is located have been paid or legally discharged. See *Okland v. Bilyeu*, 359 N.W.2d 412, 417 (Iowa 1984). The county

treasurer may not make an omitted assessment if the omitted property is no longer owned by the person who owned the property on January 1 of the year the original assessment should have been made.

d. Director of revenue. The director of revenue may make an omitted assessment of any property assessable by the director at any time within two years from the date the assessment should have been made.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 440 and sections 443.6 through 443.15 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, chapter 174.

701—71.26(441) Assessor compliance. The assessor shall determine the value of real property in accordance with rules adopted by the department of revenue and in accordance with forms and guidelines contained in the Iowa Real Property Appraisal Manual prepared by the department. The assessor may use an alternative manual to value property if it is a unique type of property not covered in the manual prepared by the department.

If the department finds that an assessor is not in compliance with the rules of the department relating to valuation of property or has disregarded the forms and guidelines contained in the real property appraisal manual, the department shall notify the assessor and each member of the conference board for that assessing jurisdiction. The notice shall be mailed by restricted certified mail and shall specify the areas of noncompliance and the steps necessary to achieve compliance. The notice shall also inform the assessor and conference board that if compliance is not achieved, a penalty may be imposed.

The conference board shall respond to the department within 30 days of receipt of the notice of noncompliance. The conference board may respond to the notice by asserting that the assessor is in compliance with the rules, guidelines, and forms of the department or by informing the department that the conference board intends to submit a plan of action to achieve compliance. If the conference board responds to the notification by asserting that the assessor is in compliance, a hearing before the director of revenue shall be held on the matter within 60 days of receipt of the notice of noncompliance. If it is agreed that the assessor is not in compliance, the conference board shall submit a plan of action within 60 days of receipt of the notice of noncompliance.

The plan shall contain a time frame under which compliance shall be achieved, which shall be no later than January 1 of the following assessment year. The plan of action shall contain the signature of the assessor and of the chairperson of the conference board. The department shall review the plan to determine whether the plan is sufficient to achieve compliance. Within 30 days of receipt of the plan, the department shall notify the assessor and the chairperson of the conference board that it has accepted the plan or that it is necessary to submit an amended plan of action.

By January 1 of the assessment year following the calendar year in which the plan was submitted to the department, the conference board shall submit a report to the department verifying that the plan of action was followed and compliance has been achieved. The department may conduct a field inspection to ensure that the assessor is in compliance. By January 31, the department shall notify the assessor and the conference board, by restricted certified mail, either that compliance has been achieved or that the assessor remains in noncompliance. If the department determines that the assessor remains in noncompliance, the department shall take steps to withhold up to 5 percent of the reimbursement payment authorized in Iowa Code section 425.1 until the director of revenue determines that the assessor is in compliance.

If the conference board disputes the determination of the department, the chairperson of the conference board may appeal the determination to the state board of tax review.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code Supplement section 441.21.

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¹ Amendments nullified by 2000 Iowa Acts, SJR 2005, editorially removed IAC Supplement 7/12/00 pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.6(3).