

**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.

**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		
(Appellant's name and address) v. (Board of Review)	}	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 of the board. 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. 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.