

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PHILIP, SOUTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
MARCH 15, 2010**

The Philip City Council met in special session on Monday, March 15, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room of the Haakon Co. Courthouse for the purpose of meeting as a Board of Equalization. Present were Mayor John F. Hart, FO Monna Van Lint, Council Members John Kangas, Monte Palecek, Greg Arthur, Shirley Chin and Mike Vetter. Also present were Deputy FO Brittany Smith, Haakon Co. Director of Equalization Rita Merrill, Haakon Co. Deputy Director of Equalization Tracy Radway, Del Bartels of the Pioneer Review; and later, Council Member Tom Struble.

Absent: None.

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order and announced that the Council would convene as a Board of Equalization.

Mayor Hart introduced Director of Equalization, Rita Merrill, who proceeded to review the City of Philip's assessed growth for 2010, reported at \$102,726. She also reminded the Council that the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI) for the 2010 taxes payable in 2011 is 0%.

Merrill noted that she has not received any complaints nor had any objections filed within the City this year. She anticipates possible objections in 2011 as properties within the City are up for reassessment this year. The reassessment schedule is one that she has implemented and not required by State law.

Council Member Kangas questioned the productivity evaluations systems for agricultural property? Merrill stressed that this was a State law re-evaluation of agricultural property based on soil surveys. The mill levy decreased while the assessed agriculture land values increased 20 to 25%. In turn, the taxable valuation only increased between 9 and 10% in accordance with State law.

Merrill then went on to ask for any questions or comments. With none forthcoming, she advised the Council that she will be retiring from the Director of Equalization position effective July 01, 2010.

The Haakon Co. Commissioner's will meet as Board of Equalization on Apr. 13, 2010.

Mayor, Council and those in attendance thanked Merrill and Radway as they left the meeting at this time.

With nothing further, the Council adjourned as a Board of Equalization at 3:35 p.m.

John F. Hart, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brittany Smith, Deputy Finance Officer

(Published once on March 25, 2010, at approximate cost of \$_____)