

NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Kathleen Chroback and Clerk Treasurer Teresa Ludlow

We have this date, by letter, requested that the Commissioner of the Department of Local Government Finance take steps to remove LaPorte County Assessor Carol Mc Daniel from office.

City officials have been working for some time behind the scenes to pressure advancement of the reassessment. The Mayor, the Clerk-Treasurer and other City officials have traveled to Indianapolis on three separate occasions to meet with Mr. Rushenberg. On each of those occasions we found him to be helpful and cooperative, however, his best efforts are constantly negated by the lack of action of the LaPorte County Assessor's Office.

For some time, we held out hope that the current reassessment could be salvaged, the tax bills issued and things returned to normal. We no longer hold that hope.

Most recently, the LaPorte County Auditor has expressed an unwillingness to certify assessed valuations, and the Michigan Township Assessor is openly challenging the 07-08 assessments that he has received from the LaPorte County Assessor's Office. We believe that both of these actions are based on a distrust of the quality of the work coming out of the LaPorte County Assessor's office.

The delay in completing the reassessment and issuing tax bills is not only a detriment to the government of the City of LaPorte, it is a severe detriment to the taxpayers. The taxpayers, whether they realize it or not, are accruing tax debts in amounts that they do not know, to be paid at a time they do not know. The uncertainty of large tax bills being issued during these hard economic times has to be worrisome to all taxpayers. This is simply unfair.

The situation has grown intolerable and should no longer be allowed to continue. The situation will not be remedied by continuing to allow the same person to do the same thing over and over again.

See copy of attached letter.