

MEMO

April 1, 2004

TO: COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: RICK STUART

SUBJECT: UPDATE

The timeframe for setting an Informal appeal for the 2004 valuations have ended. We have hearings left to conduct to accommodate the property owner's schedule. The last hearing is set for May 3. A recap of the number of appeals for the last three years is shown below.

| <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 194 | 168 | 182 |

Of the hearings in 2002, 11 went on to Small Claims and three (3) appealed to the State Board of Tax Appeals. In 2003, only six (6) appealed to Small Claims and four (4) appealed on to the State Board. The property owner dismissed three of those.

Our web page continues to be a very beneficial asset for our office. I had projected we would have around 12 registered users paying \$250 per year for unlimited use. We have 18 users and the most encouraging part is that those, whose contract expired, renewed. Usage of the web page has continued to increase as shown below. The large increase in use in 2003 is a direct correlation to putting all the data on the web and allowing access for the general public during the 30-day period.

| | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Hits per day | 11 | 15 | 43 | 59 |

Field inspections have already started for this year on sales and the required 17% reinspection. We will be using the new aerial photography this summer to check areas with limited or no access and where buildings were not shown on the old photos.

We had 65 personal property renditions filed on line for 2004. Of those, 11 renditions belonged to Hamm Companies. Hamm's have a lot of equipment that is moved around every year. It has taken as much as a week to get everything entered and removed each year. This year it took less than 5 hours to complete their renditions and making the corrections.

PTMW filed on line also and we will be talking with other companies this summer with the hope they will also participate. We have had very positive comments from the public about the online filing process.

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