



City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Minutes - Final

Legislative Hearings

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer

Mai Vang, Hearing Coordinator

legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us

651-266-8585

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 330 City Hall & Court House

9:00 a.m. Hearings

Special Tax Assessments

- 1 **RLH TA 19-406** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 517 ASBURY STREET. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 2 [RLH TA 19-238](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1189 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529)

Sponsors: Busuri

Delete the assessment.

Brenna Story appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

Cost: \$298

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$460

Gold Card Returned by: Brenna Story called

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY

Date of Orders: 12-31-18

Compliance Date: 1-8-19

Re-Check Date: 1-9-19

Date Work Done: 1-9-19

Work Order #: 19-002304

Returned Mail?: NO

Moermond:

The orders were related to a mattress and box springs between the garages?

Seeley:

Yeah. Mattress, box spring, and plywood located between the garages near an alley.

Moermond:

Were orders issued also to a neighboring property?

Seeley:

There are two orders, I'm going to have to look at them. One December 31 and another January 1 with the same mattress, box spring, plywood between the garage...I believe the other one...let me look at what they did [inaudible]

Moermond:

While you pull that up, Ms. Story, can you tell me why you are appealing this? What are you looking for today?

Brenna Story:

For it to be dismissed. I just kind of got an idea of where the two garages are. They are renters; I've been at my home for 14 years. I would have had to go through my garage or around this way to get to this side of the garage to put those items. I know those renters were already evicted around that time, maybe a couple of months prior. I never received the letter. The only reason I found out about this, at last minute, is I am refinancing and it was on the title. So, documents that were sent to me [inaudible] so again, I am disputing the fact that they were mine. When I spoke to Mr. Williams, he explained to me he sent the letter to both of us and never got a response. Well, I never got a letter or I would have responded. Well, he said he knew it wasn't me because we spoke before about a stroller that was folded up neatly against the side of my garage. He said because it wasn't sticking out into the alley, he had to send the letter.

Moermond:

And I heard staff tell me they sent two letters to your property. One with your name on it and one with occupant. Two first class letters got sent and evidently something happened...

Seeley:

May I say something, Ms. Moermond?

Moermond:

Yes.

Seeley:

[inaudible] fees will be divided and assessed to both properties at 1189 and 1193.

Story:

That's what he told me.

Moermond:

Please check the assessment roll, Ms. Vang.

Mai Vang:

Both are on the roll, 1189 and 1193. Different amounts: 1189 is \$460 and 1193 is \$432.

Story:

Is that for all three of those items? That one charge?

Moermond:

Yup.

Story:

Combined?

Moermond:

What they do is a minimum charge on both of them and then there's the furniture charge for mattresses and box springs and wood and so on. It is awfully high.

Story:

Then I would have utilized the free pick up from my trash company. At the end of last year. It just doesn't make sense. It's not something that I...would have to walk through my garage and I have plywood and mattress in at present and walk around to go through the alley to come between these two garages. It just doesn't make sense.

Moermond:

You are responsible for your own property, whether somebody dumped on it or not. If somebody drives by my property and throws a tire onto it, I gotta deal with the darn tire. No history to speak of on this property, did I hear that correctly?

Seeley:

No.

Moermond:

I have no reason to disbelieve you. I think that there's a mail situation that we need to look into...

Story:

I may have gotten it; I have five grandchildren at my house. They may have gotten into it.

Moermond:

And that's what most people have. They have lots of hands around the house. Or some people can read English and some people can't. in this case, I'm going to recommend the Council deletes it, but in the future, if there are other letters or issues, they need to be dealt with. I won't be as understanding.

Story:

I did have a letter from him and I dealt with it right away.

Moermond:

I am going to recommend deleting this. I won't be as sympathetic in the future.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 3 RLH TA 19-378** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 287 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Thao

Approve the assessment.

Marcia Shaw appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: Marcia Shaw

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement

Nuisance: Failure to maintain exterior

Date of Orders: 1-23-19

Compliance Date: 1-30-19

Re-Check Date: 2-1-19

Date Work Done: 2-4-19

Work Order #: 19-007664

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 7/31/18, 8/31/18, 10/25/18, 1/8/19, 3/28/19 All Garbage.

Orders were to please remove discarded wood on the boulevard. Sent also to a Marcia Shaw, 8204 Nicollet Avenue, Bloomington. No mail returned.

Moermond:

You are appealing this assessment.

Marcia Shaw:

I am. Well, first of all, I am the owner of the property. The house is a vacant house; it sits on a corner and people seem to be all the time just dropping stuff on the boulevard. Both on the 287 side and on the [inaudible] side. I have a person I consider my caretaker; he drives by the property and picks up what is left there. In this particular case, he said he had moved the items off the boulevard, into the yard and had not been able to get at them. Next thing he knew, they were gone. I am thinking the City must have gone inside of the property, into the fence line and picked up the stuff. Because Mel said the stuff was gone.

Moermond:

We have a video, so we will take a look at the video.

[Video plays]

Shaw:

See, it's in the yard.

Moermond:

It is still not proper storage.

Shaw:

But he just didn't get a chance to get it moved when he went back, the next day, it was gone.

Moermond:

Yes. I just saw the letter went to you January 23. The date to get the work done was January 30, so there was a full week there between the issuance of the order and the

deadline.

*Shaw:
I didn't*

Moermond:

The crew didn't actually show up until February 4, so there is a full 10 days in that time period in which this could have been addressed. I would be more sympathetic to your situation if you didn't have five issues in the previous 12 months that were exactly the same as this one. I get that you are experiencing dumping but at the same time, dumping draws dumping. You gotta be on this and taking care of it.

I have to say, the orders are written in a way, that it is clear that moving it from the boulevard to the front yard isn't addressing the nuisance condition. It is simply moving it by 10 feet inside the fence line.

*Shaw:
[inaudible] realize that.*

Moermond:

It says, really clearly, you have to remove these things and then it says in caps, the wood debris on the boulevard. Very young people will say but I moved it from there to there. But you know what, you still didn't put the dishes away. It feels like that kind of conversation. Gone means gone and this wasn't. It's not a first violation, it's a sixth or seventh violation in the last 12 months.

*Shaw:
However, this is the first time I've received this type of notice to come to court.*

Moermond:

This isn't court; this is a charge for the clean up.

Shaw:

The first time I have ever received something like this.

Moermond:

You are saying, in all the other cases, you addressed it?

Shaw:

I don't know what happened to them; I've never received anything for them. I never received this type of notice, that I owed money.

Moermond:

It looks like, in the past year, this is the one you have and also a delinquent garbage bill.

Shaw:

Yes, there is a delinquent garbage bill because I won't pay it because nobody lives there. And there's no garbage.

Moermond:

Did you contact...

Shaw:

I have, yes. Ma'am, I've done all the proper things and obviously, the City's got that garbage problem, I know that.

Moermond:

I think figuring out you aren't there is something the owner is supposed to work with the hauler on.

Shaw:

I already did that, a long time ago. And the City keeps saying I still owe.

Moermond:

The City is saying it because the garbage company sent your bill to the City for collection, because it wasn't paid and it wasn't resolved. I'm just letting you know you have that outstanding issue.

With respect to this, it does appear that in the other cases, the owner has addressed the problem.

What is your plan for the property, Ms. Shaw?

Shaw:

It will get sold this year. Definitely this year. I have been intending to get it done sooner but it's going this year, one way or another. It will be somebody else's problem.

Moermond:

Hopefully, it is not a problem for them. What I like to do in some of these cases is say if there's no same or similar in a certain amount of time, then something will be done with the assessment, but with you intending to sell the property, it doesn't make sense to put something out there in the future.

Shaw:

I do know that fellow that's my caretaker, he called me yesterday and said some more stuff was dumped on the boulevard and he didn't know how to dispose of it because of what it was. He did call the City so there is an order into the City for pick up and I know I will get a bill for that one.

Moermond:

Not with the City, maybe with the garbage company.

Shaw:

No, he said he called the City.

Moermond:

There's nothing in our computer system that he called the City.

Shaw:

I will double check with him because he told me the types of items that were dropped there, he doesn't know how to dispose of them.

Moermond:

I don't know what types of items those were.

Shaw:

Like a metal outdoor table with glass top and mattresses and a dresser.

Moermond:

There's nothing in the computer system about that right now. Ms. Martin, Ms. Seeley?

Seeley:

We don't have anything out there. Inspector Hesse was out there March 28. TV on the boulevard and that's been closed. We don't have anything recent.

Moermond:

I'm going to recommend approving the assessment as written because of the history of the City having to write orders on these things. I get that the City hasn't had to go clean these things up but the fact that the City is having to send a letter letting you know these things need to be addressed, I think that is a problem. You are welcome to talk to the City Council and see if they look at things differently.

Do we have an appeal on this garbage assessment, Ms. Vang?

Mai Vang:

Well, if she's not appealing, then we wouldn't have any. What's the file number?

Moermond:

I was searching on the address...There is no appeal on your delinquent garbage bill.

Shaw:

I talked to the trash hauler; I've talked to the City. I don't know.

Seeley:

We could give her Chris Swanson's number; he's our contact.

Moermond:

Right. About the garbage hauling, we are going to give you the guy who is the supervisor for the hauling contract; he is the main person to talk to about your bill situation and your communication with the hauler.

Vang:

Chris Swanson 651-266-8897

Shaw:

OK.

Moermond:

Good luck to you on the sale of the property and this delinquent garbage bill.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 4 RLH TA 19-331** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1110 FOREST STREET. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

5 RLH TA 19-404 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1180 FOREST STREET. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Busuri

Public hearing continued to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s) will reduce from \$478 to \$239.

Ivan Farrera appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: RTO INVESTMENTS

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY

Date of Orders: 1-24-19

Compliance Date: 1-31-19

Re-Check Date: 1-31-19

Date Work Done: 2-6-19

Work Order #: 19-007540

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 7-2-17 VEHICLE ORDER, 7-11-18 SA ON RUBBISH AND OVERHANGING VEGATATION

Summary Abatement reads please remove two tables and a chair located on the boulevard. Sent to 311 Concord Place, Burnsville MN.

Moermond:

OK. You are appealing this assessment. Can you tell me why and what you are looking for today?

Ivan Farrera:

Yeah. There's two properties also that matters to me.

Moermond:

I noticed that. Yes. Let's talk about what we have in front of us.

Farrera:

Our mailing address is 301 Concord Place and that's what one of the main questions I wanted to ask because we never got a notice for it. We had, we moved, we transitioned into a different address and a lot of the mail we are not getting so we are trying to catch as much as possible. It's 301, our current address.

Seeley:

They have 311. No, at 301 Concord Place has C of O at 311 Concord Place.

Moermond:

I am going to check to see if Ramsey County has that. You need to talk to Ramsey County Taxation and tell them what your actual address is, because they have the 301 address in their records, so that's where your property tax information goes.

Presumably you were there at one point.

Farrera:

That used to be our office, then we hired more people and we had to get a larger office at 311. Can I get the phone number where I'm supposed to call for that? Do you have that?

Mai Vang:

266-2000

Farrera:

Thank you.

Vang:

And you need to correct that with the C of O.

Moermond:

It is correct with the C of O.

Vang:

No. They have it as 311.

Moermond:

That's what it is supposed to be, isn't it?

Vang, Farrera, Seeley:

No. It's 301.

Seeley:

County has it correct and the C of O has it wrong.

Moermond:

Then we need to get a C of O change of address form in his hands.

Farrera:

Do I still call that number or no?

Moermond:

No.

Farrera:

OK.

Moermond:

We are going to get you the right information

Seeley:

It must have recently got updated with the County, cause orders were sent in January and in January Ramsey County had that. We sent it, legally, the right way. [inaudible]

Moermond:

Is that the issue with the other property as well?

Seeley:

Where's the other property?

*Farrera:
1027 Kent Street.*

*Moermond:
No. Different address listed here; it's on Bush Lake Rd. We will come back to that.
So, finishing this address, you didn't have it updated with the County. Did you not do
forwarding mail with the Postal Service.*

*Farrera:
So, I work in the company and attend these meetings and kind of see what we can do.
I don't want to give an answer to that, because I am not the owner. But we should've;
we tried to make utilities, just everything change. Come stuff that we haven't received,
we've had to call different companies to find where they sent things. I would want to
say yes but I am not 100% sure. So I don't want to.*

*Moermond:
I want to improve this situation. We had orders in 2017 and 2018 according to staff.
Which isn't great, the City shouldn't be issuing orders at all. If there are no same or
similar violations through October 16, I will cut this in half. You have the form for the
Fire C of O program so they will have your current information.*

*Farrera:
Get all the notices and...*

*Moermond:
Yes. It is incumbent on those staff to send notice to what is on file with Ramsey
County because failure to comply with the order could result in an assessment which is
what we are talking about today.*

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 6 RLH TA 19-338** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1636 IDAHO AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 7 RLH TA 19-407** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1027 KENT STREET. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve the assessment.

Ivan Farrera appeared.

*Paula Seeley:
..Tax Assessment Worksheet
Cost: \$344*

Service Charge: \$162
Total Assessment: \$506
Gold Card Returned by: RTO Investments
Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement
Nuisance: Failure to maintain exterior
Date of Orders: 1-23-19
Compliance Date: 1-30-19
Re-Check Date: 1-30-19
Date Work Done: 2-5-19
Work Order #: 19-007143
Returned Mail?: No
Comments:
History of Orders on Property: 8-18-18 Garbage, 5-13-19 Garbage, and 4-5-19 Garbage

Moermond:
Not sure what this Bush Lake Road is, can you tell me?

Farrera:
Bush Lake Road was the office prior to 301 Concord Place. The company used to be partnered up with other investment groups. Then they decided to become independent, moved into 301, started growing and then got 311. I for sure know that Bush Lake Road address, it's in Edina. It's where the company used to be in the beginning, when it began. Apparently, the fellow didn't forward us the mail or [inaudible]

Moermond:
More to the point, the owner didn't change the address of record with Ramsey County.

Lisa Martin, Staff:
Would you like to see the video?

Moermond:
Let's take a look, yes.

[Video plays]

Looks like an awful lot of stuff.

Farrera:
If I could just mention something, if it adds value of a sort, so my job is to be inspecting all of our rental properties and if there is trash outside, to go to the tenant and say hey what's going on, is that your trash. If they say no, to call the City of St Paul and say there's unknown trash outside of our garage, we have no idea what it is doing there, you guys help us with that. It's been working fine but I just came on board January so I trying to get all of that. Again, if it doesn't add any value...I just want to mention that.

Moermond:
If he's making rounds, what would code enforcement like to see.

Martin:
If you want to talk to your tenants, that's great, and have them take care of it, but in essence, the property owner is the one responsible, so. if you see stuff and they say it's not theirs, if it is at your property, you are responsible. Then you need to have

somebody take care of it or you get billed.

Moermond:

OK. And notification was sent to the owner of record at the address of record. What I would do is get a list of properties owned by RTO if you are their property manager here in town and make sure that all the information is updated with Ramsey County Taxation. I would also make sure that Fire Certificate of Occupancy is correct with the City. You have a form there and you could copy it and fill it out for any others that need updating. Fill out a form for each of the properties.

Farrera:

Oh, for each.

Moermond:

And also you will want to contact the County for any address that hasn't been updated with the County, which is the case here. There were three issues in the past year, that's an awful lot. I don't want to be the neighbor. It does look like it's the occupant. I am going to recommend approval.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 8 RLH TA 19-337** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 147 MARIA AVENUE. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Prince

Reduce from \$478 to \$239 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the balance of the assessment.

Alan Engler appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$316

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$478

Gold Card Returned by: ALAN ENGLER

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY

Date of Orders: 2-1-19

Compliance Date: 2-7-19

Re-Check Date: 2-11-19

Date Work Done: 2-11-19

Work Order #: 19-009910

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 3-2-18

Order was to remove furniture and rubbish on the boulevard.

Moermond:

Let's look at the video on this.

[Video plays...mention of a small love seat and a baby carriage]

So, you are appealing this? Can you tell me what you are looking for today?

Alan Engler:

This property was run down and neglected and I purchased it November '16. I have and will spend tens of thousands of dollars restoring it to a classic, historic building like the rest of our properties and we are proud of our buildings and we are good property owner, in good standing with the City. This does not and will not be tolerated by me or my company. It's just something that goes against every principle that I have.

Moermond:

What won't be tolerated?

Engler:

Dumping the...this is a resident that did this. So I...and I found out later. I received a notice from the City; it was dated 2/1, to correct by 2/7. I received it in the mail on 2/13. It was forwarded to me where I was, I wasn't in Minnesota. And I called the inspector and I also talked to the resident and I told him...and there was a language barrier...it's a Somali family and I told them, through their interpreter, that they could not do this. They have since tried to put other things out there and I just said no, you can't do it. I gotta deal with this problem right now, so, anyway, I contacted my trash hauler the day that I received the notice, which was the 13th. And on the 14th and they came to pick it up but it was gone. The City apparently picked it up on the 11th and then charged me the \$478. I just didn't have adequate time to respond to it. I understand, and I, just from listening to the other case, having trash on the boulevard, it's just an eyesore. I also heard from one of my neighbors and I [inaudible] have a placard that has the name of the company and my phone number; they can reach me directly and I heard from one of the residents next door and I said yes, I'm on it. Well, the trash company, I've had three trash companies in the last three years, because of all the change of ownerships and the City deal, so just couldn't respond in time and I called the inspector and said I'm doing the best I can...and just couldn't get done.

Moermond:

What isn't clear to me...I saw three garbage cans...is this a four-plex?

Engler:

Four-plex.

Moermond:

So, you get a number of bulky items per year. I want to say two bulky items per can. So, this could have been picked up for free by the hauler, but you probably know.

Engler:

And I called them to do that.

Moermond:

And you did call them to do that. I'm only seeing one other thing here, from more than a year ago. In that case, you guys took care of it. I'm going to recommend two things. One is that it gets cut in half, and the second is if we don't have any same or similar violations through October 16, that it gets deleted.

Right now, I will ask the City Council to cut it in half and if there's nothing in the next six months, the other half will go away.

Engler:
Thank you.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

9 RLH TA 19-376 Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 652 OAKDALE AVENUE. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Noecker

Reduce from \$432 to \$216 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the balance of the fee.

John Henderson appeared.

*Paula Seeley, Staff:
..Tax Assessment Worksheet*

Cost: \$270

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$432

Gold Card Returned by: John Henderson

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement

Nuisance: Failure to maintain the exterior

Date of Orders: 1-8-19

Compliance Date: 1-15-19

Re-Check Date: 1-29-19

Date Work Done: 2-1-19

Work Order #: 19-006787

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 7-9-18 Vehicle, 3-8-19 Garbage, 3-18-19 Snow

Work order was to remove box spring from the side of the property.

*Moermond:
So, you go these orders...*

*John Henderson:
My property there at 652, 654 Oakdale and I have the property right next door, 184 Baker. I have owned the properties for several years. And it's turned into a perennial dumping ground. One of my tenants at the Oakdale Avenue is a disabled marine and I give him a deal on his rent, but he is my eyes and ears for the property. He gives me a head's up, most of the time. In the wintertime, he has a hard time getting around to the alley to see things. When I received the letter from Shawn, we'll jump on it right away. I have to, because I have my wife watching me. But we'd done the work and I believe that this work was done and that there was more dumping done there.*

*Moermond:
Let's take a look at what happened here, at the video. I've got a picture that was taken on January 8.*

[Video plays and mentions removal of a box spring on the side of the property.]

That location is the same location as it was.

*Henderson:
Same location, yeah.*

*Moermond:
I have three other orders in the last year. One for vehicle, one for garbage and one for snow and this one. Seems like things are happening here that need to be taken care of.*

*Henderson:
I have good tenants there; I just can't manage the people that are dumping on the property. If I hear of issues, we'll jump on it. I take care of the lawn, I take care of the shoveling, I help neighbors. There's a gentleman across Oakdale, I help him with his snowplowing. If there's people driving up and down the street in the snowfall, I will help them, you know, shovel and push them out. I have a pretty good record, if cops come by, I've got a cold bottle of water for them. I always wave to them. If I call them, they are always there to help me. I'm a good citizen. I just...*

*Moermond:
So, we gotta figure out how to get on top of this. I think, with the bulky item pick up, is that something that you guys have pursued?*

*Henderson:
This is a new system and I'm not familiar with it. One thing that was interesting in an earlier testimony, trying to look for the trash hauling numbers and everyone hides behind the internet. This is the first chance I've had to get a phone number and a name of an individual. We are aware of the bulky information but this is the first time I've had a warm body, or a warm name and I want to take advantage of that. I want to clean the area, just as much as everyone else would.*

*Moermond:
Ms. Vang, would you figure out which hauler handles this property.*

*Henderson:
I think it's Republic.*

*Moermond:
For each of these medium cans, you get two or three bulky items a year. So, if something like this happens, you can just pick up the phone and call Republic and say, I have a bulky pickup and move it to where your garbage cans are and they will pick it up and there won't be a charge. If you get beyond what that number is, it is still going to be cheaper for them to pick it up than for the City to pick it up.*

I'm going to do a similar thing as I did to the previous guy and I am going to say half can be gone now and then if you don't have any violations through October 16, I will go with the other half, but you got to keep it addressed. That sounds like that won't be a problem; you've got your eyes on it. Just call Republic...

*Mai Vang:
It's Highland.*

*Moermond:
Don't call Republic, call Highland. So, Highland Sanitation.*

Henderson:
All righty.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 10 RLH TA 19-398** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1692 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Approve and spread over 3 years.

Cornelius E. Brown, Jr. and Gail Kaslowski appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

This is a Summary Abatement Order. Orders were sent January 8 with a compliance date of January 15. Rechecked January 9, work order was sent. Work was done February 4 for a cost of \$516. There was an extension given in the interim. It was sent to the occupant at 1692 Edmund and to Cornelius Brown and Gail Kaslowski at 1246 Edmund Avenue. Summary Abatement states please remove furniture, trash, auto parts, debris from rear yard and driveway area around the garage.

Meormond:

Let's take a look at the video.

[Video plays ...mention of rolled up carpet, three shopping carts, furniture, tire, debris on the ground, one of the bikes is broken so we will remove that, refrigerator, appliances can't be stored in the backyard, remove door. Final video backyard is free of debris]

Moermond:

So...

Cornelius E. Brown, Jr.:

[inaudible] the tenant is a...there's nobody in the 1692 section of the house where we used to live. Her name is...what is her name?

Gail Kaslowski:

Kimberly Simon.

Brown:

Yeah, Kimberly Simon. She is responsible for the whole thing. She continued to put the trash in there after I cleaned up and after I got rid of most of it, best I could. She's broken into our garage three or four times.

Moermond:

She's a former tenant?

Brown:

She'd living there now. We gave her notice to leave four times and she refused. She ravished a '77 Cadillac that we've got stored, not in mint condition, but in pretty good condition. She broken that and stole parts off the car and everything, three or four times and she's been given three or four notices to move and she refused. 98% of

that trash, 100% of that trash has been put in, there by 10 people she rents the basement out without our consent. She's got 9 or 10 people living there. St Paul Police Department has called us several times and told her directly that she's got too many people living there. Is there anything that you want to add? I'm done.

Kaslowski:

One thing, I never did get a letter from the City about all this furniture and stuff. Always acted up it immediately and I asked for help many times. We tried to kick these people out in October and we lost the case. Then I asked if he would come and testify and all of a sudden, he was on vacation. But didn't respond [inaudible] time and then I asked him a second time we called for an eviction again and he [inaudible] supporting statements about what he discovers over there.

Moermond:

So, the stuff outside belonged to this Kimberly?

Brown:

I had [inaudible] neighbors and they helped me clean numerous times and [inaudible] she simply will not stop. Maybe your office sent a separate letter to the address.

Moermond:

One goes to the occupant and one goes to you.

Brown:

I sure would appreciate it.

Seeley:

Ms. Moermond, this needs a C of O. Yes, because 1692 Edmund does not have a C of O.

Brown:

It's vacant.

Seeley:

1694 Edmund does not have a C of O. They live at 1246 Edmund. We need a C of O even if one side's vacant.

Brown:

We live down the street from...

Moermond:

Owner occupied. I granted an appeal an appeal on a Vacant Building Registration based on you guys getting your Fire C of O squared away. And you didn't get a Fire C of O for this property, which is a problem.

Brown:

You say Fire? What is that?

Moermond:

The Certificate of Occupancy, so it can be a rental property.

Brown:

Yes, we filled out all that and turned it in.

Kaslowski:
Well, no.

Brown:
We filled out everything.

Moermond:
They are telling me you don't have it.

Brown:
We completed all that. We sure did.

Moermond:
Like I said, they are telling me you don't have it, so...

Brown:
We completed that, I remember that. With the last inspector. We got an occupancy, they come out and cleared it. It was a woman inspector and she took care of the whole thing.

Moermond:
Right now, it shows up as being revoked from 2017 and...that's for the 1692...

Brown:
She cleared it.

Moermond:
Our paperwork isn't here that says that.

Brown:
Gotta be a mistake in the office, because she cleared it.

Martin:
It was condemned in 2016. Certificate of Occupancy revoked and vacant.

Seeley:
Finalized in 2017...

Martin:
Would you like us to put in a referral? For Fire to go out there?

Moermond:
Yes.

Seeley:
Per Legislative Hearing, [inaudible] close VB2 file, C of O file for follow up and that [inaudible]

Moermond:
Exactly. You can get out of the Vacant Building program if you get your C of O reinstated. Which didn't happen.

Brown:
It was a lady inspector and she was really [inaudible]

Moermond:

Yes. I see her name in here. Laura. But there isn't anything there.

Brown:

She cleared it.

Moermond:

She did not clear either side in the paperwork. So, you have a serious issue.

Brown:

I don't understand. She took care of that.

Moermond:

No.

Kaslowki:

We got to get that addressed?

Moermond:

Exactly. We gotta get that addressed.

Martin:

Do you want it to go back to Matt in Vacant Buildings? Do you want it to go back to C of O? or would you like us to send it?

Moermond:

I think this should go to C of O.

Martin:

Got it. Give them a change to get it reinstated through C of O and if they can't, then we'll talk to Vacant Buildings again. Brian Schmidt right now. Acting supervisor for the western half while A.J. Nies is doing hazmat.

Brown:

Can you contact the lady who inspected it?

Moermond:

She will be informed. I don't think she is working in this area anymore.

Brown:

It was my understanding she cleared all that.

Kaslowski:

If she didn't, why didn't we get informed then?

Moermond:

Ma'am, the last letter I'm looking at has your property being condemned. I don't see another letter that's lifted and you've got your C of O reinstated. A couple of years ago, I said you could stay out of the Vacant Building program if you get your Fire C of O reinstated and that didn't happen.

Brown:

I got a witness also.

Moermond:

Actually, I don't even care right now. I need an inspector to get in there and sign off on it. These staff are going to contact the supervisor for that area and say this should have been taken care of...

Brown:

Two years ago.

Moermond:

Whatever happened. And get somebody looking into it. With respect to cleaning up the yard right now, I am sympathetic that your tenant caused this mess.

Brown:

Yeah, I was out there with the lady last week, and everything was [inaudible] up with the exception of this [inaudible] on the grass.

Moermond:

Right. But this mess that we are looking at, back in January and February...

Brown:

That's been taken care of, though.

Moermond:

The City cleaned it up. We are talking about the charge that the City wants to put on the property taxes.

Brown:

Oh.

Kaslowksi:

I never got a letter though [inaudible] while this was out there.

Moermond:

One was sent to you and Mr. Brown at 1246 Edmund.

Kaslowksi:

We didn't get one; we don't have a [inaudible] on the house. We didn't get it.

Moermond:

You don't have any what?

Kaslowksi:

We don't have anybody else what gets the mail but me. We never got a letter.

Martin:

There was no mail returned. And it looks like you live right in the neighborhood. So managing the property should be pretty easy to drive by, to take a look. There's quite a bit of stuff.

Moermond:

I am confused about how you didn't get the letter, but an extension was requested and granted. Because, if you didn't get a letter, how did you call for an extension?

Brown:

Well, the lady that come out, the inspector, we turned all that paperwork in to her and she cleared it. That was my understanding.

Moermond:

You are talking about the Fire C of O and I'm talking about the clean up now.

Brown:

Yeah, we're probably talking two different sets of issues.

Moermond:

Right now, what I have in front of me is cleaning up your yard. The City gave orders January 8...

Brown:

Well, the yard is clean and the person said [inaudible]

Moermond:

And back in February, the City did a big clean up in the yard and they want to charge you for it. And Ms. Kaslowski's saying I didn't get a letter and my questions is if you didn't get a letter, how it is you called for an extension? That doesn't make sense to me.

Brown:

I don't remember calling for an extension on this here.

Kaslowski:

I didn't call for an extension.

Moermond:

The inspector wrote notes here, that an extension was requested and granted.

Kaslowski:

I didn't request it and then he didn't.

Brown:

I talked to the inspector, at the office, earlier this year. Other than that, no.

Moermond:

I am stuck here. I want to read the inspector's note.

Seeley:

I talked to Vic Doborwski and I said why the long period for the recheck. He said he talked to the owner, it says in there talked to PO, and I said you must have given them an extension and he said yes I gave them an extension.

Brown:

Nope.

Moermond:

The inspector says he talked to the owner and granted an extension.

Brown:

Yeah, I did talk to him in person. He was a very, gentleman, very nice slacks and suit.

Very polite. And I told him [inaudible] was a Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff and I [inaudible] was the Chief of Police with [inaudible]. We had a nice conversation. [inaudible] last summer. Mr. Blakely, the Chief of Police with [inaudible] he passed. But he was very polite and it was my understanding the thing was in the clear.

Moermond:

No. I'm going to recommend approval of this assessment but dividing it over three years. That is something you can go after your tenant for, but the ...

Brown:

Well she...what's her name again?

Kaslowski:

Kimberly Simon.

Brown:

Kimberly, she's the one dumping all this stuff out there intentionally. No one else.

Moermond:

You need to go after her. It's a private matter between you guys about this.

Brown:

We gave her the eviction notice and she should be out by the first.

Moermond:

OK. You will be hearing from the Fire C of O folks so that can all get squared away.

Brown:

I appreciate you giving us a break on that. [inaudible]

Mai Vang:

The condemnation back then was the water issue and it was restored, so you granted the appeal.

Moermond:

Perfect. That makes good sense, then. Maybe we just need a piece of correspondence, then, to follow up with that, to confirm the C of O is...

Martin:

I sent an email to Mr. Schmidt to go out for the over-occupancy issue and..

Moermond:

They will talk to her about the over-occupancy issue, you talked about how she's letting people stay in the house that you haven't given permission for. The inspector will check that out.

Brown:

She even burglarized our [inaudible] apartment, taken out smoke detectors and other stuff, which I am replacing. She broke in that [inaudible] three or four times.

Kaslowski:

We [inaudible] otherwise we wouldn't go through with an eviction on her.

Moermond:

The reason is was condemned is because you had the water shut off and because you had the water restored, that's how you got out of the Vacant Building Program so we are looking to get the paperwork caught up.

Brown:

They had to put pipes and other mechanism in the system, so they had to cut it off.

Moermond:

OK. Have a good rest of your day.

Brown:

Thank you and thank you for giving us a break, a chance. We will take care of it.

Moermond:

I know you will.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 11 RLH TA 19-412** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 930 WOODBRIDGE STREET. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Thao

Reduce from \$488 to \$244 and continue Public Hearing to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will delete the balance of the assessment.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

10:00 a.m. Hearings

- 12 RLH TA 19-343** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 960 DUCHESS STREET. (File No. J1919A, Assessment No. 198543)

Sponsors: Busuri

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 13 RLH TA 19-405** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1248 FARRINGTON STREET. (File No. J1908E, Assessment No. 198312)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 14 RLH TA 19-411** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 615 HALL AVENUE. (File No. J1919A, Assessment No. 198543)

Sponsors: Noecker

Delete the assessment.

John Herbeck appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$280

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$442

Gold Card Returned by: John Herbeck-walk-in

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement Order

Nuisance: Garbage furniture by dumpster- couch, mattress, box springs

Date of Orders: 2/4/19

Compliance Date: 2/11/19

Re-Check Date: 2/12/19 and 2/19/19

Date Work Done: 2/21/19

Work Order #: 19-012398

Returned Mail?: No

Comments:

History of Orders on Property:

We also have another Summary Abatement order for March 1. Work order was sent March 11, but work was done by owner. This was also mattresses near dumpster.

Moermond:

This is an apartment building?

John Herbeck:

20 units.

Moermond:

You are appealing this. Can you tell me why and what you are looking for today?

Herbeck:

First, I believe I was granted an extension, because I looked up the history of that time period and that's when we got that crazy snow.

Moermond:

It looks like they added another week on there. Maybe that wasn't enough.

Herbeck:

What happened was the dumpster and where we were piling our snow, I owned the property at the time for less than a year. So, the snowplow person was plowing the snow by the dumpster and this got buried.

Moermond:

Let's look at the video.

[Video – 2 mattresses and couch near dumpster.]

[Completion video – dumpster on top of couch so unable to remove the couch.]

Herbeck:

That's good information because that is exactly what we encountered. We had different people, multiple attempts to kind of get in there and which was the reason for the extension. That dumpster was right smack dab on that stuff, nestled in there. We

had hoped if the snow would clear, we would have an easier time to get in there but the snow just kept coming. That helps me understand the second complaint.

Seeley:

The second complaint came in Mar 1 and it was the sofa way behind the dumpster.

Herbeck:

In the future, we will have to do something else with the snow, either haul it away or something.

Moermond:

What I am looking at here is a long history, going back to 2017, I'm not seeing any complaints on this building. I think you did make a good faith effort. Just for the record, the orders were issued on February 4th, when it was, no doubt, clear. February 5th was 4 inches. The 7th, 6 inches. The 10th, 6 inches. The 12th, another 6 inches. The 20th, another 9. I am going to recommend this gets deleted.

Herbeck:

Thank you very much.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 15 RLH TA 19-403** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 332 JESSAMINE AVENUE EAST. (File No. J1919A, Assessment No. 198543)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Approve; no show.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 16 RLH TA 19-402** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 891 JOHNSON PARKWAY. (File No. J1919A, Assessment No. 198543)

Sponsors: Busuri

Delete the assessment.

Joanne Studt and Mary Siedschlorg, daughters of owner, appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$160

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$322

Gold Card Returned by: JOANNE STUDT

Type of Order/Fee: SNOW ORDER

Nuisance: FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW FROM SIDEWALK

Date of Orders: 2-14-19

Compliance Date: 2-17-19

Re-Check Date: 2-19-19

Date Work Done: 2-19-19

Work Order #: 19-012186

Returned Mail?: NO

Comments:

History of Orders on Property: 1-31-19 SNOW ORDER SEND AND WORK ORDER BUT DONE BY OWNER

Orders were sent to Ruth M. Klecker, 891 Johnson Parkway and to the occupant.

Moermond:

We have a letter that went out on the snow and ice. Do you want to see the video?

Joanne Studt:

Yes, please.

[Video plays...mention of snow and ice...wheel chair accessible...snow removed full width]

Moermond:

My observation, looking at the video, it looks like there had been some consistent shoveling over the winter but then something happened. February 12, two days before that letter got sent, there was 5 ½ inches of snow and it looks like that snow wasn't addressed. The snow up to that point was addressed; you were on top of it.

Siedschlorg:

We do it every time that we can possibly get there, like right after it snows. [inaudible]

Moermond:

Yes. I was seeing it was about that thick, ice and packed down. That's probably those 5 ½ inches. Everything else was clear; you had been doing it.

Siedschlorg:

[inaudible] gets in there. We shoveled it; then it snowed again. We didn't get out there right away, then it snowed again. Johnson Parkway is a hard one to keep clean because those plow, there's no barrier there at all. Most have that little boulevard; it's all cement. But I was just out there; I had done the whole back and my husband and his son did the front. He said he got down as far as he could. I mean, all we have are shovels.

Studt:

Our other sister, she had been there. She's got arthritis in her hand. She does what she can. [inaudible] mom is in my care. She had lymphoma last year and she's now in remission. So she can't do any of this herself. We have to do it for her. But our other sister, she went out before, then I had come several different times. I live up north but I know I know I have to get down because that's a huge walk path for a lot of people that are right over at that [inaudible] don't know how to pronounce it. But it's right down around the corner of the Hmong village. So we know a lot of traffic goes through there but I will tell you, a lot of other people along that path, they don't always...

Moermond:

I can see on the video, there was a sidewalk in better condition, and beyond that, a sidewalk in much worse condition.

Siedschlorg:

My mom's very picky and she always wants proof of everything. I literally took pictures

before I shoveled and after because she was in with her at that moment and asked me [inaudible] so I took pictures and I sent it to her so she didn't tear me a new one.

Studt:

She didn't care about along the rest of her property. She just said take care of that sidewalk because we have a lot of people that walk through there.

Siedschlorg:

She has to walk that sidewalk to get to the bus.

Moermond:

Because of the way it was looking and also the temperature range here, from when the orders were issued to when the crew showed up, those temperatures were below 20 and below 10 degrees for the entire day so that, given the good faith effort that you made was just about the best effort that could have been done in the circumstances. I am going to recommend that this gets deleted.

Studt:

Thank you.

Moermond:

Moving forward, you kind of know the game plan. Salting helps a lot. Salting and then come back with the shovels.

Studt:

What we are going to do this coming winter, like I said, she's staying with me until she gets done with this cancer stuff. Our other sister is actually taking care of the house and property and all there. She'll be back a month, month and a half. This winter, we're going to see to it to get her somebody to come out there...

Moermond:

That will be great.

[man interrupts to ask whether there is a rule about how wide the shoveled walk has to be. Ms. Moermond clarifies that it has to be full width of the sidewalk that's there.]

Siedschlorg:

If that's true, then the neighbor to the right of her, the one with that little tiny path through...

Moermond:

Which was the one I said was much worse. That's not Ok. You can't have two people pass each other, let alone someone with a cane or a wheelchair, anything like that. Totally undoable. All right, we have an answer for right now...

Siedschlorg:

I have a real quick question, the neighbor on her other side, he built an addition on to his house with no permit. A flat roof, actually a slight angle, so all his snow and ice fell right into her house. You can see here in this picture where he shoveled it off his roof unto her door, so she can't even get out her side door.

Stuhr:

She's got her vent that comes out from her dryer and he already broke the window.

Siedschlorg:

We didn't know this because we don't usually go on that side, but I happened to when we were out there shoveling...

Stuhr:

895 that is.

Moermond:

You think he is 895 Johnson?

Siedschlorg:

Yes. He put up this privacy fence and that's fine, but literally, I took her to [inaudible] work one day and he started building, we thought, he's building a deck. I came home and dropped her off and he's literally got an addition on his house and it's like a foot off of his fence. You can see the roof here is right over the top of the fence and all the ice is hanging and he shoveled all the snow on top of there and on this picture here you can see, it's halfway up the door. So, what if she had a fire, how is she going to get out of there if she can't get out the front?

Stuhr:

We tried talking to this kid and he's just something else.

Moermond:

If you want to share those photos, we will scan them in and get them to the right people at the City so that can be investigated. OK?

Stuhr:

I'd appreciate that.

Siedschlorg:

The guy on the other side chopped down all her trees because he wanted to put a fence. She went to work one day and when she came home all she had left was one little stick. He had chopped the branches off the last tree because he wanted to put a fence there. They know she's alone. It's sad. I talked to them and oh, we're helping her out. One day I came to pick her up and they'd chopped down all her raspberry bushes in the front of her house. I said why did you do that? Oh, I couldn't see in her front porch. You don't need to look in her front porch. Oh, want to make sure she's OK. [inaudible] you have no right to be coming in the property.

Stuhr:

The worst thing right now is that addition and he[inaudible] he's a contractor. His name is John Howard. He's been a thorn in her side, ever since he moved in there, years ago.

Siedschlorg:

He's nice when we're there but then [inaudible] he does stuff. The new addition is like

Stuhr:

She can't even see in her kitchen, it's so bad.

Siedschlorg:

He makes faces at her when she is in the kitchen to irritate her and I thought she was just making jokes about it, but one day when I was there, you could see him doing stuff in the...she says Mary come here and I come around the corner and he's in his

new little addition, staring at her through the window. It's like, why are you doing this to this woman. And then, when we talk to him, he acts all nice.

Stuhr:

My mom is like, at 1 AM, she's actually seen him up on the roof, shoveling snow right at her house. She's actually called the police and they said, without any video, they can't do nothing about it.

Siedschlorg:

She called the City when he built that addition and [inaudible] told her, he built it, what are we going to do about it. Well, he didn't have a permit. How can he possibly stick that right on the fenceline?

Moermond:

OK. I got that information. I will make sure it gets shared as best we can.

Siedschlorg:

Thanks so much.

Stuhr:

Thank you.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

17 [RLH TA 19-292](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 693 SIMON AVENUE. (File No. J1915A, Assessment No. 198529) (Public hearing continued to October 16, 2019)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Public hearing continued to October 16, 2019 and if no same or similar violation(s), will reduce from \$506 to \$253.

Abinet Moltote appeared.

Paula Seeley, Staff:

Cost: \$344

Service Charge: \$162

Total Assessment: \$506

Gold Card Returned by: ELIZABETH NIGGUSA

Type of Order/Fee: SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Nuisance: FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXTERIOR PROPERTY

Date of Orders: 12-28-18

Compliance Date: 1-4-19

Re-Check Date: 1-4-19

Date Work Done: 1-7-19

Work Order #: 19-001297

Returned Mail?: NO

History of Orders on Property: NO

Summary Abatement says please remove scrap wood, windows, debris from the rear of the property by the garage.

Moermond:

OK, shall we look at the video? So, you guys were doing some work on the house?

[Video plays]

You are appealing this. Can you tell me why and what you are looking for today?

Abinet Moltote:

I work for some place. [inaudible] My car is broken, I cannot move at that time. I looking for [inaudible] the window already [inaudible] The first time [inaudible] the first time [inaudible] office downtown, so she say [inaudible] it's the first time and I don't know why [inaudible]

Moermond:

It's the first time you have had a violation? Is what you are saying?

Moltote:

Yah, right.

Moermond:

OK. That was a lot of stuff that the City needed to remove. Can you tell me why you guys didn't remove it?

Moltote:

I tried but [inaudible] and I changed and I rent for the car for the window but the car is no there [inaudible] I used for the front, garbage company so he take it for every garbage, but now the City is for to take for the whole garbage. That's why I didn't know [inaudible] this payment for the garbage company.

Moermond:

This is not something the garbage company would collect because they don't collect construction waste. And that's what I am looking at here. I'm looking at old windows and old doors. That is something you would be responsible for removing. I am struggling, because it was lot of stuff the City had to remove.

Moltote:

It's only three windows and some cardboard and [inaudible]. So, I'm coming [inaudible] only three windows. Not too much garbage.

Moermond:

It looks like you don't have a history on this property. If you don't have any more violations between now and October 16, we will cut this in half.

Seeley:

You need a permit to [inaudible] new windows.

Moermond:

If you are continuing to do window replacement, you need to pull a permit to do that work. So that a building inspector can come check on it.

Moltote:

All right.

Moermond:

On June 5, I will ask the City Council to hold the conversation to October 16 and if you

haven't had any other violations by then, I will ask them to cut it in half. You don't need to be there on June 5. If you are leaving the country, just make sure you have someone you trust looking after your property.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019

- 18 RLH TA 19-377** Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1401 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST. (File No. J1919A, Assessment No. 198543)

Sponsors: Jalali Nelson

Approve the assessment.

Mahir Safi appeared.

Lisa Martin, Staff:

..Tax Assessment Worksheet

Cost: \$320

Service Charge: \$284

Total Assessment: \$604

Gold Card Returned by: Maher Safi

Type of Order/Fee: Summary Abatement

Nuisance: Failure to maintain exterior

Date of Orders: 2-25-19

Compliance Date: 2-26-19

Re-Check Date: 2-26-19

Date Work Done: 2-26-19

Work Order #: 19-014148

Returned Mail?: No

Comments: RECOMMEND DELETION OF PART OF THE FEES. THE 2-13-19 SA/WORK ORDER 19-011064 WHICH IS FOR 1495 UNIVERSITY AVENUE W. ACCESSED TO THE WRONG ADDRESS.

History of Orders on Property:

This was an emergency abatement order. Somehow there's two vacant properties on University Ave and they got confused. 1401 is owned by Mr. Safi and 1495 is not. They got miscommunicated and both are on this. The side of the property had only a small plow go through and the front of the property had not been maintained. I actually witnessed a disabled woman fall and I had to help her get up. That's why we issued an emergency Summary Abatement, because this property is not maintained. Whether it be winter or summer, Mr. Safi needs to ensure that the fence is in good repair, the grass gets cut. But in this particular case, the snow was not maintained and that is why we had to issue the emergency order.

Moermond:

Let's take a look at the video.

[Video plays]

That corner lot, that's 1401?

Martin:

That is 1401. The problem was at the entrance the woman was trying to step over onto

the sidewalk...

Moermond:

You said the adjacent property owner also had an order.

Martin:

There was another address, 1495 University, and somehow that attached to this file. The total assessment, \$604, that's showing both of those properties, it looks like. However, I do see that there's a clean up done on 2/14 as well.

Moermond:

At this property?

Martin:

Would you like to look at the video, make sure it's the correct address on that?

Moermond:

Sure.

[Second Video plays]

Martin:

You can see there was no attempt made on that side of the street at all. And I will doublecheck STAMP to make sure that one from 2/14...that Summary Abatement was correct.

Moermond:

The assessment role I am looking at right now for this 10AM hearing is 19-90A. And are there two clean ups on that?

Mai Vang:

\$320 with an admin of \$244, total \$604. There's two work orders. So two clean ups. One on the 14th and one on the 26th. Real Estate is \$35 and attorney is \$5.

Martin:

It looks like the Summary Abatements were correct to 1401. The problem was the picture that was attached to the file was 1495. So, there are two abatement orders for 1401.

Moermond:

So, we've clarified that 1495 is not attached to this record.

Martin:

It's not, it was just the wrong photograph.

Moermond:

All right. Mr. Safi, you are appealing these two clean ups. Can you tell me what you are looking for today?

Mahir Safi:

Well, I purchased the property this summer, late summer 2018. This is my first winter I guess. I didn't know I was responsible for that. I got the letter saying I was and I got charged a fee for clean up and maybe possibly two prior to that and then I hired a person who works with me and I gave him the file and said go, take care of it.

In February, as you know, we received a significant amount of snow and it was on a daily basis and as you can see in the videos, it's still snowing while they were plowing. So I just want it, since I paid two assessments before and I will work hard next year to take care of it. Honestly, I didn't know it was supposed to be that much width. It was my first year. I'm honest with you, I didn't know St Paul didn't do it.

Moermond:

Well, St Paul did do it. You also had difficulty getting the grass cut.

Safi:

I didn't know the grass, like I said, I purchased the property mid summer, It wasn't my responsibility from that time.

Martin:

From July 9, you can look at all the work orders because it wasn't maintained.

Safi:

Like I said, it wasn't my property.

Moermond:

You said you acquired it in the summertime?

Safi:

Late summer. During August, yes. As far as the fence, somebody called me about the fence. I called the City was there anything about the fence and they said no, we don't have anything about that. It's a partial fence, the damage was probably done by the snow plow. I'm just going to remove the fence.

Moermond:

I am seeing there was a problem in September. You did receive notification of that. At the Broadway address.

Safi:

That's not me. Even though I paid for it, without any objections.

Moermond:

When you buy a property, you buy all the assessments. That's between you two.

Safi:

The first notice I received was in January. I can't say 100% sure about [inaudible] maybe by the time they found the address and they sent it to me, it was that time.

Moermond:

You are welcome to take this up with the City Council, but as I look at it, this is a significant problem. And you are lucky you didn't get sued by people falling...I don't know if you got sued or not, but this is a huge access problem, these sidewalks not being cleared and it did occur on more than one occasion. There is also a current complaint from May 21 to say there's trash among the grass and weeds.

Safi:

It is a vacant lot on University so of course there's going to be problems.

Moermond:

Not necessarily. You need to proactively take care of that instead of having the City send you a letter.

Safi:

I'm not going to be there every single day to look at the property and find out because it's a vacant land.

Moermond:

For the case of the emergency snow removal in February, I'm going to recommend approval of the assessment.

Safi:

That's not fair, because I paid two assessments without any objection. Like I said...[inaudible]

Moermond:

Bring it to City Council and ask them...

Safi:

In February, it snowed almost every day.

Moermond:

And I shoveled almost all the time at my house.

Safi:

I know, but even the contractors did not have time to finish all their work and every single day go and plow more.

Moermond:

The City Council could look at it differently than I do. Have a good rest of your day.

Safi:

OK.

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

Special Tax Assessments-ROLLS

- 19 RLH AR 19-38** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing collection for Property Clean Up services during February 1 to 14, 2019. (File No. J1917A, Assessment No. 198535)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

- 20 RLH AR 19-43** Ratifying the assessment for the City's cost of providing collection for Property Clean Up services during February 15 to 28, 2019. (File No. J1919A, Assessment No. 198543)

Sponsors: Brendmoen

Referred to the City Council due back on 7/10/2019

11:00 a.m. Hearings**Orders To Vacate, Condemnations and Revocations**

- 21 [RLH VO 19-14](#) Appeal of Susan K. Drake and Yost J. Yost to a Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation & Order to Vacate at 920 FREMONT AVENUE.

Sponsors: Prince

Grant to May 22, 2019 (24 hours) for owners to vacate the property.

Yost J. Yost and Susan Drake appeared.

..Date/Time of 1st LH: Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m.

..Purpose of Appeal: We need more time to decide what to do. We had an appointment w/Paula Seeley. She came out, didn't try to contact us. Yost and I were there. He even took off work. We found her card lying in the yard. We did not know anymore until we received letter late Thursday, 5/2. After living there for almost 20 yrs, 7 days is not enough. S.K.D.

..Date of Order(s) Under Appeal: April 30, 2019

..Inspector/Key Staff: James Hoffman

Moermond:

Mr. Yost, Ms. Drake, the last time we talked we were going to see what we could do to get the front and the back entrances fixed and see if there was any emergency money to help with that. That was hoping that the problem was and that there wasn't more stuff that was going to make the situation worse. And so, gave you a few phone numbers to call. I know you did some reaching out. We got some feedback also.

Any of the funding sources involved would want to have general inspection on the property. So, there was also an inspection that happened last Thursday to get an assessment of interior as well as exterior conditions, so the whole thing could be looked at. I know you've had a chance to talk with Lauren Lightner from House Calls program. We have inspection results and I also have a letter from Ms. Vojacek from Planning and Economic Development. She is a supervisor in the loan area.

What I would like to do is have Mr. Hoffman put his inspection results on the record. Then talk about some of the repair money and then talk about where we go from here. OK? I think this is going to be a hard conversation. I don't know that they come any harder. I apologize for that.

So, you did an interior inspection last Thursday morning?

Mr. Hoffman:

I did, along with Lauren of House Calls. We went through the house, found out a lot of damage to the roof, multiple areas of the ceilings due to integral roof issues. Significant water damage throughout. Picture of the bathroom ceiling...

Moermond:

Ms. Vang, would you bring up those photos. Maybe you could describe what we are looking at here.

Hoffman:

That's actually above the bathroom. I don't know if these are in order...

Moermond:

Am I seeing a hose in the bathtub?

Drake:

We don't have a shower and I use that to wash my hair.

Moermond:

It looks like the toilet is a little bit askew.

Hoffman:

The toilet, from what I can understand in how it was all set up, is basically being held up by the stand pipe. It is not secured and the floor is rotted out in that area [inaudible]. There's significant water damage in that area. There was running water in the basement, from that area. That was in the basement, affecting that area.

My biggest thing is the extent of the water damage. Because it is everywhere. The ceilings are falling down. There's visible mold, dampness [inaudible] as far as life I didn't see any smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors.

Drake:

We do have three smoke detectors in the house.

Yost:

And there's a new one in the bedroom.

Moermond:

We'll come back to you. Let's have him finish.

Yost:

Sorry.

Moermond:

We'll do one thing at a time. So, what are we looking at here, Mr. Hoffman.

Hoffman:

As far as in the basement area...

Moermond:

I'm looking at the photo on the screen, that's?

Hoffman:

Oh. That's the bathroom ceiling which was leaking from the rain from the previous night. It was a sunny day.

That's one of the kitchen, it's wet. All the paint is peeling off the ceiling.

Another corner of the kitchen.

The floor itself, there's two sides leaning towards the middle. In the basement, you can see rot in the main beam running across the floor. That's deteriorating and causing the floor to sag. As far as structural, I don't believe it's structurally sound at this point, due to the water damage.

Moermond:

I work a lot with houses that end up getting demolished. This house is a lot like those houses. I will tell you what I see in the photos. We think about houses in terms of systems. You've got a foundation, that's a system. The electrical is a system. The plumbing is a system. And so on. What I am seeing, in the case of your house, is your systems are almost all in a state of failure or in danger. The water has compromised your electrical system. There is no question, the house having been as wet as it has been, that the electrical system is compromised and needs to be completely replaced. The plumbing system, we know there are some aspects where the connections are in failure. The venting, I don't quite know what to say about that, the house is kind of sinking in the middle, the floor. That affects that, as well.

Ms. Vojacek, you have had a chance to look at the photographs and the inspection results. You have been doing rehab 25-30 years. Tell me what your thoughts are. I know they called about a loan and you sent somebody out to look at it. What are your results?

Ms. Vojacek:

Correct, Ms. Moermond. So, we, last week, Susan I believe you called me and left me a message and I had Xiong Vang call you back about the application. And then Lauren did drop an application off to us last week but the day of the last Hearing, was that Thursday? [inaudible] So, Tuesday, we were asked to come over here but both Xiong and I were in meetings at that time.

We sent our rehab advisor over to take a look at the roof, anticipating that it was mainly a roof issue at that point. He went over and looked at just the roof and came back and was very concerned you were living there and we were supposed to get huge rains overnight. He did go to the back and was going to knock on the door but was concerned about walking up the staircase, is how he described it to us, that he was afraid he was going to fall through. He saw holes in the main roof of the house, just from standing outside and he was very concerned that folks were living there and wanted us and the inspectors, to let Ms. Moermond know of his concerns.

Then, after the inspection by DSI on Thursday, we got the report on Friday. We asked a contractor who does work for homeowners all over the City of St Paul, just to pencil in numbers based on this inspection report. Our money comes from the Federal Government, it's Community Block Grant money. We need to deal with all health safety items in the property in order for us to provide a loan to anybody. Our maximum loan amount is \$25,000. So, the contractor just penciled in the margin, some numbers, based on pictures and he was clear about that. He came up with a budget of \$159,900 just for the items included on this condemnation report. He was very concerned about the foundation and if the foundation can even continue to support the house. He said the foundation would be \$25,000 in and of itself.

And then Xiong Vang in our office and Dan Nelson and I went through these numbers yesterday. Dan said it's in an historic district, so compliance with that needs to be met. Dan was feeling like it would be more like \$200,000 to \$250,000 to bring the house up to health safety and all the requirements that are required with Federal funding sources.

Moermond:

And Ms. Lightner, you were out there on the inspection and you have some resources that you can tap if someone qualifies for them. You worked with Mr. Yost on his qualifications and as I understand it, as of yesterday, they are just above the income that most of the programs are able to help at?

Ms. Lauren Lightner:

There's a variety of things that we looked at. We looked at Building Together, St Paul Home Loan Fund, and Hearts and Hammers and we put together applications for all of those places. But, none of them can really meet the needs of what is being described in terms of the house probably needing a demolition. I have held on to those applications; we haven't sent them in, because if the house is demolished, it doesn't make any sense.

I have tried to prepare and talk to this couple about what are the options if you can't live in your home and provided them some affordable living options. They've looked at them, discussed them. We've tried to meet their needs with that. We looked at some financial things because there's probably some financial areas that they could tap into, or resources, even if it's General Assistance for Susan, or applying for Social Security, there's some areas that we talked about that, maybe, they can maximize what they are doing with their finances to be able to afford a change or a move. We did get them a 30 yard dumpster so they could start moving some personal things out of the home that they no longer need and they've been busy working on that. They've been the busiest couple, in terms of trying to get financial information, do these applications, and asking excellent questions, and again, this isn't an easy conversation.

I believe that one of the positive things is they've made contact with someone who can buy the house in its current state, We Buy Ugly Houses or something like that. They have a \$20,000 mortgage still, on this property. They've had some financial setbacks in the last few years and don't want to lose, on this house, any more than they already have.

Moermond:

Just checking to see how the County values that land...

Lightner:

They did have a conversation with SMRLS yesterday and today. SMRLS asked them to stop by after this Hearing today.

Moermond:

That's fine. I don't think that would have an impact on this conversation. Specifically, Laura Orr,...

Drake:

We talked to someone Asian...

Moermond:

She does intake. Laura Orr works with seniors. I talked to her about your circumstances and I think she's going to be the attorney that you end up with.

According to the County, they are valuing your land at \$11,200 and your house at \$40,800. When I look at those numbers, I see somebody buying your house for the land and considering the demo costs. The numbers may not work. I need to say this

plainly. You appealed an order to vacate your house which said you had a week to leave, based on the front and the rear exits. In order for me to get better information for me to review that, we did get tons more information. It all leads me to a place where I need to say, you need to leave this house, in short order.

Drake:

When I talked to the lawyer, she said that's unreasonable.

Moermond:

The lawyer can come to the City Council. I am going to do it this way. I'm looking at this and I'm seeing dangerous conditions. I didn't want to see dangerous conditions; I was really hopeful that we were just looking at the front and the back entrances as being the problem.

Drake:

I did mention the front and back entrances as the emergency when I talked to the lady. She mentioned the roof, when I talked to Xiong.

Vojacek:

For our program, because our funds come from the Federal government...

Drake:

No, I understand that. I told her that when I talked to her.

Moermond:

The next day this could go in front of City Council is June 5. I'm going to put your case in front of City Council June 5. Between now and then, I need to put a temporary decision on the record. The Council can change that. But for right now, I am going to say, you need to be out in 24 hours.

Yost:

There's no way.

Moermond:

You need to pack tonight. You need to pack up your stuff that you need to live with tonight. There's got to be a way. If you continue to live there, the house will be boarded and you won't have access to it. It's that...

Drake:

Where are we supposed to go?

Yost:

What happens to our belongings?

Moermond:

Let's talk first about where you are supposed to go. Ms. Lightner has worked with you on a couple of options. I understand your income is just higher than what we can help with hotel vouchers, and so, that isn't an option that is available. I am looking at a house that is in a state of collapse.

Drake:

We have been living like this for quite a while. We didn't know we had the resources to even do this. That's why this is a total shock that this whole thing's going on.

Moermond:
I understand your shock.

Drake:
It's a total nightmare.

Moermond:
It is a nightmare; I don't know that there is anything that is harder than this. It is...the worst. And I can't soft pedal it and tell you that it isn't. It is very bad conditions that you have been living in. It is dangerous conditions that you have been living in. I have seen floors collapse. I have seen houses that have had this kind of situation.

Drake:
Our kitchen floor, he said it's uneven, it was like that when we moved in.

Moermond:
And that doesn't mean it was OK then.

Drake:
I know, but the City approved us to move in there, they [inaudible]

Moermond:
Ma'am, we are here and now, it's ...

Drake:
Why did they approve that house, if it was needed so much work to begin with?

Moermond:
20 years ago. We are here. Right. Now. Today. There is a roof and a ceiling in a state of collapse. We don't have a bathroom that is safe because of the toilet, being on a tilt, supported by the sewer pipe. We have a foundation that is in a state of failure.

Drake:
I understand the house is probably going to be tear down and stuff but how in the world are we going to get out tonight? How are we going to do that?

Moermond:
You need to find someplace to be. That's probably going to be a hotel right now. That's what most people do. And you look for an apartment right away. And that is something Ms. Lightner can help you with and I guess she's already offered you a couple of options, where to look and so on.

When I heard the inspection results last week, they troubled me so much that in some cases, I would have said, you need to go now, based on what I learned from the Thursday inspection. It was that bad. I didn't say that; I wanted to wait so you could have follow up conversations with Ms. Lightner. You could continue to sort things out. And then we could all kind of be sitting together and have this conversation. It is a short turnaround, but I am telling you, I can't let you stay inside there, living any longer. I can't. so, it is getting out first those things you need in the short time. And then sorting out what you can get to storage or moving to a new apartment and following through on that.

I want you to talk to the attorney at SMRLS. I know today you are hearing, it's probably a blur.

Drake:

We are supposed to go talk to her after this.

Moermond:

Which is perfect. You will do the intake today and get the general paperwork filled out. Moving forward, Ms. Lightner mentioned We Buy Ugly Houses. You are going to have to decide whether to touch your IRA. Have you got paperwork filled out for disability? Can you get that taken care of? All of these kinds of things where I really think you need a legal advisor, just for you, not me or the government or a program, but your person. I really want you to follow through with that. It will not change what happens today, which is we gotta get you out of there as soon as possible. But it will give you better information about the decisions you can make in the future you that you are not taken in by somebody who buys houses every single day, cheap, from people who are in trouble. That you have good advice so you can make a decision that won't be harmful to you. I really want you to have that.

I need you out, I'm saying 24 hours so you have tonight to organize things. I know you are a working man. I know that this is fast. I do. This is like a tornado hit your house.

Drake:

After all this, how long do we actually have to move out? To get everything out?

Moermond:

That, you would actually have a little bit more time, so once the house is vacated, you have from 8AM to 8PM to be in the house to do repairs, to move things out, to clean things, to do those kinds of things. It will be put in the Vacant Building Program if the Council goes with my recommendation to keep the house vacated. And your attorney can help you work through if you want to object to what I am recommending. The next opportunity would be June 5 to go to the City Council and ask them to make a different decision than what I am recommending. Your attorney can give you advice on that as well. I can tell you, for sure, between now and then, you can't be there.

Yost:

You mentioned...I want to mention that I want to understand that quite well, you mentioned that nobody else is allowed under that roof without us being there.

Moermond:

I'm not sure what you are picturing there.

Yost:

We got some personal items. That are underneath that roof and we don't want what they call a walkthrough, having people come walking through the place and we want to make sure that our items that are left beneath the roof are secure.

Moermond:

The City will not allow, the City is not going to do any inspections, the City is not...the only time...here's what will happen. This is your property, you own it, you govern who gets to come and go. When wouldn't that be the case? If you were living there or somebody else is breaking in there. So, if at 9PM, the police are going by and they see lights on and people moving around, they're going to go, that's in the Vacant Building Program, nobody is supposed to be here at 9PM.

Yost:

OK. That's what our main concern is. We wanna make sure that whatever underneath that roof stays there and nobody else is allowed in. that can remove any items or anything.

Moermond:

And some people move to get their things out as quickly as possible because they are concerned like I don't trust my neighbor two houses down and now I'm not there, so...

Yost:

It's not that I don't trust the neighborhood, it's just I don't want City officials or any other program coming in there and walking through and you know helping themselves. Taking all that stuff out of there, just to get us out of there.

Moermond:

Nobody is going to go in without having a police type reason to be in there.

Yost:

OK

Moermond:

If it is found that somebody if sound to be living there, or breaks in and has a party there.

Yost:

Or a homeless person.

Moermond:

What the City does in those situations is make an order that the house has to be boarded and so they board the windows on the first floor and the front and back doors. Those are screwed shut. You as the owner can still come and go there and unscrew the board to do that, 8AM to 8PM. You can be there to do what you need to do.

Yost:

Now you see that would be my main concern right now because I'm thinking in 24 hours, there's no way can we get all that stuff out of there.

Moermond:

I don't think so either. And I'm not expecting that. My concern is that you

Yost:

That was my main concern

Moermond:

Body and soul, are not in the house. Physical possessions can be there and you can work through getting that all cleaned out.

Yost:

Gradually working, room by room. I don't know if anybody else has been over there, but as you know, we got the dumpster pretty well half full, so we're half way there but we still got some stuff that we gotta go through.

Moermond:

I wouldn't expect anything different.

Drake:

I gotta ask a question. We always kept a light on in the living room at night. Can we still keep that on?

Yost:

For security reasons. Let people know...

Moermond:

Absolutely. Put it on a timer. Do whatever it is you feel comfortable with.

Yost:

We just don't want anybody, I just want to make that very understood that you know I just don't want anybody in there. At all.

Moermond:

And we don't want that to happen either.

Yost:

And I don't want the neighbors to think that you know that, we want to get the neighbors the impression that we're still there. You know, so.

Hoffman:

Marcia, is the plan to have Vacant Buildings open this immediately or do you want me to contact...

Moermond:

If there is a problem between now and June 5, we should. If there is no problem between now and June 5, I'm happy to wait until the Council has had a public hearing on it.

Hoffman:

I will monitor it myself. I'm in the area anyway, so...

Yost:

We haven't had any problems with the neighbors over there, so. If you can hold off putting, you know, anything up there right away. If the neighbors see a sign up there, right away the neighbors [inaudible]

Moermond:

Do you work regular Monday through Friday hours? Or do you work...

Yost:

I work Monday through Friday, yes.

Drake:

He had to take off a lot of time, too. He's been missing work. He got sent home from work yesterday because he started breaking down emotionally at work.

Yost:

The boss, the president, he even come out and said I think you don't better be here, so. And I'm afraid of losing my job, too, so. his main concern is for himself.

Moermond:

Oh, I'm sorry.

Drake:
He's been there for 48 years.

Yost:
That's life, I guess.

Drake:
I've been making appointments with my cardiologist because all this going on.

Yost:
She's been emotionally all upset, too.

Moermond:
This is one of the very worst things that can happen. [inaudible] from a terrible medical diagnosis.

Yost:
You see, I gotta go to work tomorrow and I gotta deal with them, again, tomorrow, because they're not too sure if they should even keep my job open at all.

Drake:
He's 67.

Yost:
Maybe by the end of the week, I don't know if I'll even have a job.

Moermond:
That's one more situation you would want to talk to your attorney about.

Yost:
See if they're actually, legally, [inaudible]

Moermond:
I don't know, but I think somebody who works for you, for your interests needs to give you advice on that. That could be somebody like Laura Orr.

Yost:
I haven't really showed my emotion yet, but you know, it's gettin there, I mean, you know, you know...

Moermond:
Of course it is.

Yost:
Even the boss sees it and he doesn't know me from, you know, he's just seeing what he seen yesterday. He come out of his office and he says that's it, I don't even want, you're too much of a reliability being here right now. I just packed my things and just left.

Moermond:
I just want you to focus on, just for a minute, you have some resources. You are not destitute. You are not a wealthy man. You are not a wealthy family but you are not

destitute. Another blessing is you have your wits about you and you can think clearly. You have skills that are helpful. Ms. Orr will also be helpful. If you are talking about being in a hotel until June 1 and then in an apartment, this is doable. This is not the end of the world.

Drake:

Feels like it.

Moermond:

I am truly sorry for all this. I want you to have all the resources you need to more through this.

Drake:

Forgotten to mention and I don't know if this makes a difference or not but [inaudible] over the income that they said. I thought I read somewhere it was 55. You [inaudible] at 55 [inaudible] 33 something.

Moermond:

Let's find out a little more about that. For the hotel vouchers, what are the income guidelines for that.

Vojacek:

For two people, it's bringing how \$2800 gross income a month. Now if you didn't get paid for some of the work, I will look at that. You qualified to get into some of these apartments that open May 27

Drake:

Another thing I wanted to mention, and I don't know if it makes a difference, but we've got an old, old iron furnace. Now what is it going to take you people to take that out of there and get rid of that. [laughs] It's like an old, super old, gravity furnace. One of those iron ones, asbestos, old. Heck of a lot of thing to get it out of there. And everything else.

Moermond:

There are people who specialize in doing that...

Drake:

But that's going to cost a lot of money to get that out of there and take the house down. Who pays for that?

Moermond:

If it happens in the future...this is not where we are at today. If it happens, in the future, that the City issues you an order to remove or repair your house. You would get 30 days to do something on your own. If you didn't, it would come to me and we would talk about what those next steps are. If it turned out that it was taken for demolition, the cost for the demolition would be as assessment onto the property. Houses this size range from \$14,000 to \$20,000 for demolition costs, with an average of about \$1500 for hazardous material. I don't know if the furnace will make that more expensive. Generally speaking, that's the amount of money. If somebody was looking at your house, they might say the parcel is worth more than the County says, I don't know. But the assessment, the value of the property, how you make these decisions, that's something Laura Orr can talk to you about, like what's in your interest, taking in those different numbers. Is it best for you to walk away? Is it best for you to sell it? Is it best for you to do something else? I don't know. She can give you that kind of

advice.

Yost:

Another thing I want to bring up now, my mortgage is due at the end of the month. Will I have to pay that?

Moermond:

Ask your attorney whether you should.

Yost:

I have heard if you don't pay your mortgage, they can...I want to try to keep as good credit as possible, is what I am trying to do. I overheard that if you don't pay your mortgage and the house goes into foreclosure, that affects your credit and that can really damage you from getting into another place to live...and that my main concern is right now.

Moermond:

Your attorney should give you advice on whether or not to pay your mortgage. I can ask Ms. Vojacek to answer general questions about foreclosures. General terms.

Yost:

I want to get this one straightened in my head to understand where I am standing and what I have to do and what I have to put forward. To myself, to help me, financially.

Vojacek:

As Ms. Moermond stated, we are not attorneys, we have a foreclosure prevention department. We tell folks today that if you need to go into foreclosure, it does have an adverse affect on your credit score, but there are compensating factors, like you needed to move from your home. In the olden days, it used to take seven years for these factors to go off your credit report. That's not true anymore. Folks that have gone through foreclosure, after three years, can buy houses again as long as they have re-established their credit. Bankruptcy, once you re-establish credit, folks are buying houses after one or two or three years, but you have to re-establish that credit.

Yost:

See, that's my main scare tactic right not. Is that is I...I never really...I had a problem with credit cards and stuff because that was my major problem why I had to file bankruptcy. But then , my medical bill, I got sick and my medical bill is the one that, you know, those two is the main factors are the ones that are scaring me right now because she's been trying to sweet talk me into getting a credit card and establish some kind of credit. But I'm leery about even doing that right now because that's what got me in the position I'm in right now. That's why we weren't able to do what we have to do.

Vojacek:

If you were going to buy a house in the future, there are lenders out there that still do mortgages based on non-traditional credit which means you pay car insurance, you pay rent, you pay medical bills, you pay health insurance. They count all of that as a positive against your credit. This may not be the time or place, Ms. Orr should probably talk to you about that, but are you on Medicare?

Yost:

Yes, I am. But I am still working, but I pay for my Medicare.

Drake:

Yes, well you are still working...

Vojacek:

Everybody pays for Medicare in some way, shape, or form. Are you getting Social Security?

Yost:

No. I do not, no. I never filed for Social Security. I'm still working. They told me that I wouldn't be able to apply for Social Security unless i...

Moermond:

There's better information. Your attorney...

Yost:

They told me, right straight out. You are still working; you can't get both.

Moermond:

Your lawyer will tell you different, but you get that information from your lawyer. Make a list of questions for your lawyer. That should be on there.

Yost:

See, this is what I am talking about, about me. I haven't actually mentally or physically had somebody actually sitting down and discussing all these legal things of what I am actually qualified to get and what I am not qualified to get. Now, I had the understanding that as long as you are still able to work, you can't get Social Security at all. That's what they told me, so that's the reason I haven't even filed for Social Security.

Moermond:

Ms. Orr can give you some good information on that. I think you have been given bad advice. You want to have a list of questions for her. Your first order of business is getting out, your next order of business is getting some place new to live. Then you start working through what your new future will look like.

Yost:

I just gotta make sure I got the income to do all of this. That's the reason I'm touching bases right now with different places.

Moermond:

I think Ms. Orr can help you with that. If you have Social Security coming in...

Yost:

Do I have to count that? As far as having kind of a system coming in...

Moermond:

You are kind of at the witching hour right now. Your income, as of today, is going to be the most important thing. Because that will govern whether or not you can get those vouchers to be in a hotel. Other kinds of assistance you could get, you would get regardless.

Drake:

He does have supplemental Health Partners health insurance.

Moermond:
Great.

Yost:
Like I said, I just want to touch bases with everything. I want to see, you know, if I can get any kind of assistance.

Drake:
Last year, he finalized the bankruptcy.

Moermond:
What is your ability to get your valuable things out of the house. How fast do you think you can get your valuable things out of the house.

Yost:
That's another thing, we don't have a place to put 'em.

Drake:
That's another thing. We've got furniture. We don't even know if we can get it out the back door. The furniture we've had for a lot of years.

Moermond:
Could you put a ramp over those stairs?

Yost:
You'd have to ask this guy.

Drake:
Because of the front entrance to the house, you'd have to [inaudible] you'd have to come up on the front door.

Yost:
Even if you put a plank, a heavy duty plank, oh, what they call a U Haul ramp, a steel ramp [inaudible]

Drake:
...dining room table, one of dressers I don't think we could even get out the back door.

Yost:
And see, those are the kinds of heavy duty things that we wouldn't actually have...

Moermond:
So, those are important things, but they are things.

Drake:
We've had 'em for years.

Moermond:
Ms. Lightner, would Bridging program...

Lightner:
I don't know what the financial cap is for the Bridging program, but if Yost's financial situation changes in the next 30 days...

Yost:
And it won't, I can guarantee you that.

Meormond:
There's an income requirement. They could provide furniture.

Drake:
I'm not giving up my grandmother's table.

Yost:
No.

Moermond:
But you gotta figure out a way to get it out of the house.

Yost:
That's what I'm asking, if we could get like a steel...

Moermond:
Nobody's going to come and steal the big table out of the house. Things that you think that people might want to steal, though...

Moermond:
Yes. You get those out, like in a mini-storage unit or something like that.

Drake:
That's another expense.

Moermond:
But it's for a short period of time, until you can move it into an apartment. Then it's not going to be too bad of an expense.

Yost:
See, it would help if we found a place, like an apartment or something that would have like a garage. That would help.

Drake:
Ya ya ya I don't wanna [inaudible] all that crap.

Yost:
I'm just more like, I was just thinking out loud because we got a lot of stuff that...

Lightner:
I will continue to work with you on next steps. Ms. Vojacek has provided the application for the St Paul Foundation which has a lot of good information for the SMRLS attorney. We can pass this information along to them. Your \$50 cashier's check to them and I've written some of these important questions that you've brought up. Because it's going to be hard to remember all of this. This is what you will bring to SMRLS as we go next and we'll be in touch, within the next day about this apartment search.

Drake:
This isn't the only organization we applied for. We applied for every single one that...

Vojacek:

I didn't turn them in because it looks like your house needs to be demoed. In that case, these places...

Drake:

What I'm saying they don't have to take any bids on how much the work would be form any other organization...

Moermond:

Any of these places are going to look at the total cost and right now, these guys are coming up with an estimate that is essentially saying, we have to rebuild the house.

Yost:

I mentioned to you at the last meeting that we had, I said by the time they are through, they'll have a brand new house.

Moermond:

That's what we are talking about here. You are not going to be able to get a loan for \$25,000 to address this stuff, because it's going to be seven, eight times more than that. Given that, you have different decisions you need to make right now.

Drake:

What I am still angry about is St Paul, the one that put us in that house. We are so angry about it, that they ok'd that house.

Moermond:

It's 20 years ago. You've lived there for 20 years. You need to focus on today, because you have problems today. Blaming, right now, isn't going to do your heart any good and it's going to make your day worse, when it is already one of the worst days you've got. Focus on taking care of yourself. I don't want you to be in a house that's collapsing, that could collapse on you at any time.

Drake:

I don't think so. It's been that way quite a while.

Moermond:

I know you don't believe me. But I've had the building official of the City of St Paul review the orders and review the photographs and he can't believe that somebody is living in there right now. He thinks it looks like a third world derelict...

Drake:

If we'd gotten the help when we needed it, ma'am, from St Paul, ma'am,

Moermond:

This is your house and you own a lot of responsibility around this so I don't think it is productive to have this conversation.

Drake

[inaudible] because we weren't making very much money then [inaudible] come in and ask for help

Moermond:

Please understand, everybody is trying to help you right now and how you lived in the past, is in the past. I've got a house, right now, that you can't be in anymore. Where

we go from here doesn't have to do with what happened 20 years ago, it has to do

Drake:

It wasn't 20 years ago. We applied for Dayton's Bluff for either a loan or for them to fix it up, they said they'd fix it up, they said we made too much money. And we weren't making hardly anything.

Moermond:

And they can't help that the programs they have available are income qualified. You are in a tough, bad spot.

Drake:

They wanted us to take out a second mortgage and we couldn't do that.

Moermond:

OK. OK. You know what? That's water under the bridge. Please.

Drake:

That's where I'm concerned.

Moermond:

I know, because you keep coming back to it. But for your own sake, please, just for right now, for a couple of weeks, get yourself into a safe place and you can come back and

Drake:

This is going to be the hardest thing we ever do in our lives.

Moermond:

Of course it is. Of course it is. It's going to take all of your concentration and all of your energy to be able to manage where you are at right now. You can be mad later.

Drake:

Where was the City when we needed help. Now they are just tearing up our whole lives.

Moermond:

The City couldn't be there before because your income didn't meet the program guidelines, just like it doesn't right now. We got to work on what we have and we have a house coming down around your ears and I know you know it's not safe in there and I know you know it's time to move on. Let's get that taken care of, get you out of there, into a hotel, then into an apartment and working with an attorney to help you make good decisions. Look forward. If you want to brood about past, that's Ok, but right now,

Drake:

It's been so emotional and hurtful.

Moermond:

I know.

Drake:

But they wouldn't help us when we needed the help.

Moermond:

They couldn't, with what resources they had because the rules made it impossible. What happened today is stressful.

Drake:

The point being, is somebody hadn't turned us in, we'd still be living like this.

Moermond:

That's not the point. The point is you can't live like this. The time is up.

Drake:

[inaudible] to move out with everything else and [inaudible] to stay and try to do something about it. I don't know. I don't understand. That's one organization that's said about stuff. There's all kinds of organizations I've heard that can help.

Moermond:

You are welcome to look at those; you just can't live in the house while you do it.

Drake:

But she said she didn't turn them in because it wasn't worth it.

Moermond:

All the information we have is it's going to be in excess of

Drake:

I'm outta here, let's go see the lawyer.

Referred to the City Council due back on 6/5/2019