

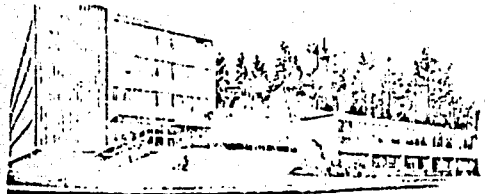
Re: Rental Agreement between The Corporation of the District of
Burnaby and the British Columbia Assessment Authority
(Item 7, Manager's Report No. 27, April 14, 1975)

The following letter was forwarded to the Executive Council of the Province of British Columbia, in accordance with the direction given by the Municipal Council at its meeting of April 14, 1975.

The attached letter dated April 11, 1975 from Mr. J.T. Gwartney, Acting Assessment Commissioner, was read by the Municipal Manager on April 17, after the letter of the same date was forwarded to the Executive Council. It is the letter that Mr. Gwartney promised to forward outlining the reasons for his decision to recommend to the Authority that the area assessment office be removed from the Burnaby Municipal Hall. The Municipal Manager will be replying to it.

This is for the information of Council.

* * * * *



Office of the Manager

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

MUNICIPAL HALL
4949 CANADA WAY
BURNABY B.C. V5G 1M2
TELEPHONE 299-7241
294-7110
Our File: 1-16-75

April 17, 1975

The Executive Council
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
VICTORIA, British Columbia

Gentlemen:

Re: Rental Agreement between The Corporation of the District
of Burnaby and the British Columbia Assessment Authority

The recommendations noted in the attached copy of Item 7, Manager's Report No. 27, were adopted by the Burnaby Municipal Council on April 14, 1975. As a result, the British Columbia Assessment Authority has been served with Notice to Vacate the space occupied by it on the fourth floor of the Burnaby Municipal Hall, effective May 31, 1975.

At the time that this matter was considered, the following motion was also passed by Council:

"THAT the Municipal Manager be directed to send a letter to the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council expressing Council's concern with the precipitous action taken by the British Columbia Assessment Authority in this regard, together with a copy of Item 7, Municipal Manager's Report No. 27/75, and also reflecting the concern that the costs involved will place this Municipality in a disadvantageous position and that Council should now have some idea from the Cabinet what the Municipality will be looking for as an assessment cost."

I might say that I was discussing this whole matter with Mr. Gwartney, Assessment Commissioner, on April 8, 1975, and expressed my concern for the reasons noted in the attached report at the action being taken by the Assessment Authority to vacate the premises in the Burnaby Municipal Hall at its pleasure. At that time, I advised Mr. Gwartney that I wished to write to the Assessment Authority expressing my concern, but I would have preferred to have had a letter in writing outlining the Assessment Authority's position and specific reasons for the action being taken before I did so. To date, I have still not received a letter from Mr. Gwartney and, of course, the Municipal Council passed the above motion directing that I write this letter. I am, therefore, obliged to write to the Executive Council at this time, even though I have not received a letter from Mr. Gwartney.

Continued ...

ITEM 11
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 29
COUNCIL MEETING Apr. 21/75

The Executive Council
Province of British Columbia

Page 2
April 17, 1975

I might point out that I first wrote to the Assessment Commissioner on January 3, 1975, expressing concern about the relationship between the Assessment Authority and our other civic departments, and asked for a meeting at his earliest convenience to ensure that the best working relationship possible was developed for all concerned, at a minimum expense to the tax payer, when looking at Provincial and Municipal expenditures. I had a lengthy meeting with Mr. Gwartney on January 16 and, subsequently, Mr. Gwartney came to a meeting in the Burnaby Municipal Hall on February 5 to meet with all of the municipal administrators in the G.V.R.D. area.

At the time of the Municipal Council meeting of April 14, when concern was expressed by Council about the future cost of the assessment function as far as Burnaby was concerned, we had not been advised what the 1975 costs might be. Since that time, the Municipal Treasurer advised me on April 16, 1975 that he has received notice from the Assessment Authority that the levy against all municipalities will be 1.17 school mills, which in Burnaby's case will represent \$589,710. If one takes the 1974 cost of our assessment department and increases it for anticipated 1975 wage increases, the cost for the municipal department would have been approximately \$530,000. The levy imposed by the Assessment Authority would appear to cost this Municipality approximately \$60,000 more in 1975 than it otherwise would have.

We are concerned with this extra cost and we would like to know if the Province intends to take any action to reduce these costs.

Yours very truly,

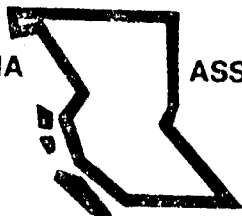
Melvin J. Shelley
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

MJS:lf
Attachment

cc: Mayor T.W. Constable
Mr. T. Gwartney, Assessment Commissioner

ITEM 11
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 29
COUNCIL MEETING Apr. 21/75

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



Assessment Commissioner,
1537 Hillside Avenue,
Victoria, British Columbia,
V8T 2C1

598-3022

April 11, 1975

RECEIVED

APR 16 1975

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE

Mr. M. J. Shelly
Municipal Manager
District of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B. C.
V5G 1M2

Dear Mr. Shelly:

Re: Burnaby Area Assessment Office

To confirm our recent telephone conversation, the Assessment Authority has found it necessary to ask the Burnaby-New Westminster Area Assessor to secure a suitable office for the assessment function. At first we had thought that the existing space in the Burnaby Municipal building would be adequate to house the present staff and those staff members being transferred from the City of New Westminster. We regret that the space afforded us is not sufficient and we have made plans to move to a private office building.

The additional space is required due to our desire to have a facility which can accommodate Specialist Appraisers who will be transferred from other areas; to our need for an educational function center; and to give us the independence from the taxation function which was desired by the Legislature when preparing the Assessment Authority of British Columbia Act.

We shall continue to work closely with you to ensure the transfer of data which you require. It is our sincere intention that service to the public shall not suffer as a result of the relocation of the Assessment services to which they have become accustomed.

Yours truly,

J. Ted Gwartney

J. Ted Gwartney
Acting Assessment Commissioner

JTG:pm