



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 1, 2017

Via electronic mail

Mr. Larry Short
601 East Decatur
Newton, Illinois 62448
larry@newtonil.com

RE: OMA Request for Review – 2017 PAC 49875

Dear Mr. Short:

The Office of the Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, has received the enclosed response to your Request for Review from the Village of Newton. You may, but are not required to, reply in writing to the enclosed response. If you choose to reply, you must submit your reply to this office within 7 business days of your receipt of this letter. 5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2016). Please send a copy of your reply to Mr. Tedford as well.

If you have any questions about this matter, you may contact me at (312) 814-6437, lbartelt@atg.state.il.us, or the Chicago address listed below.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leah Bartelt', is written over the typed name.

LEAH BARTELT
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

cc: *Via electronic mail*
Mr. Max L. Tedford
Weber, Tedford, Heap & Ayres, P.C.
102 East Main Street
P.O. Box 250
Robinson, Illinois 62454
lawoffice@wthalaw

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PLEASE REPLY TO:
ROBINSON

October 31, 2017

Leah Bartelt
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
500 S 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Re: OMA Request for Review – 2017 PAC 49875

Dear: Ms. Bartelt

Our law office represents the City of Newton, Illinois.

I have received and reviewed your letter of October 11, 2017 and would make the following response on behalf of the City.

By way of background, there is located at 506 Van Buren Street, Newton, Illinois, a vacant property with a structure that the City believes should be demolished. A recent picture of that property is sent herewith.

This property because of delinquent real estate taxes was acquired by Jasper County, as Trustee for Jasper County Taxing Districts through a Tax Deed. Rather than auction the property, the Jasper County Trustee has agreed to sell the property to the City of Newton for the total cost of \$805.00. I attach copies of correspondence from the Jasper County Tax Trustee, the Purchase Contract, the Title Insurance Commitment finalized October 3, 2017 and my letter of October 10, 2017 regarding finalization of purchase. I understand, it is the intent of the City, if it finalizes acquisition of the property, to demolish the structures located thereon and thereafter to either keep the property for City purposes or to sell same so as to get it back on the tax rolls.

The purchase of this real estate was discussed at several closed sessions of the Newton City Council, but no final action regarding the purchase was taken during any closed session. A copy of the minutes of the August 15, 2017 open session and closed session of the Newton City Council, with verbatim transcript, where this purchase was discussed are sent herewith. The minutes of other closed sessions where the purchase was discussed are also sent herewith.

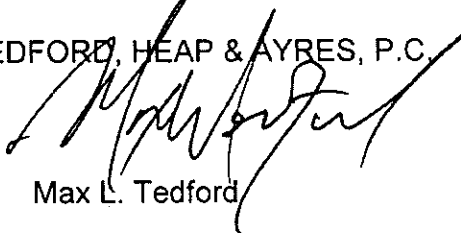
Leah Bartelt
Assistant Attorney General
October 26, 2017
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The finalization of the purchase of this real estate is to be discussed and acted upon in open session at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Newton City Council on November 7, 2017. A copy of my letter to the Newton City Clerk regarding that agenda item is sent herewith. When the agenda has been finalized I will send a copy of the final agenda to you as well.

If you need any further information or documentation to determine this matter, please let me know and I will promptly respond. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

WEBER, TEDFORD, HEAP & AYRES, P.C.



Max L. Tedford

MLT\hps\Leah Bartlet ltr
Enclosure
Cc: Rosie

P.S. We are having difficulty getting the audio file transcript in a format that can be emailed. Therefore I will mail the audio file disk to you by mail.