



## City of Brewer Press Release

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### **Brewer Begins Revaluation Process**

The City of Brewer has hired the appraisal firm Vision Government Solutions to conduct a revaluation of all real and personal property within its city limits. While on average property values in the city are at or near market value, the City has not conducted a full revaluation since the 1960s.

“The current assessment system is very old,” says City Assessor Steven Weed. “Although it has been updated over the years, many things have changed in the City that warrant a review.” The project will equalize assessed value across all properties and bring property information and the assessing system up to modern standards.

Brewer’s assessment data is now separately maintained in anywhere from two to four different locations for each property account. The revaluation and the new assessing software that will be installed will update and centralize all that information into one online database. “The elimination of 4,177 paper property tax cards is just one of the ways this project will enhance productivity and lower costs in the long run,” says Finance Director Karen Fussell.

The revaluation will assist economic development as well. “One of the many benefits the revaluation will provide is the ability to have assessing and tax information available on the City’s website, which is something that developers have been requesting for some time,” explained Brewer’s Economic Development Director D’Arcy Main-Boyington. The digital records will also facilitate the geographic information system Brewer is developing.

The City has established a webpage ([www.brewermaine.gov/assessing/reevaluation-information/](http://www.brewermaine.gov/assessing/reevaluation-information/)) to provide taxpayers information about the revaluation process, including a schedule of when residents can expect the appraisers to be in their neighborhood. The property inspection phase is expected to last about four months. Taxpayers will receive notice next year of their revised assessment and have an opportunity to review these with the appraisal company before they are finalized.