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LB 36

County Board, since the first of the year, has increased the budget of the Douglas County Assessor and has approved funding for four additional assessors, I believe, and also has approved additional funding for additional technology to bring about the changes, to bring the property values up to a place where they should be. And so it's not as though Mr. Morrissey hasn't (sic) been sitting on his hands for the last four months. He's actually been trying very hard to accomplish the goals that we're all trying to get to here. I'd say too that, obviously, I don't believe any of us here in the Legislature were at the previous TERC hearing. And so all I can really speak to is what I saw in the paper. And one of the comments that I did see in the Omaha World-Herald article regarding the first TERC hearing regarding Douglas County was the statement that TERC was somehow required by the constitution and by statutes of Nebraska to order this across-the-board valuation. And I can tell you, from my reading of the statutes and the constitution, that just isn't the case. The statute says that the commission may...that's permissive...may make orders. And it goes on to say that in no case shall the relief be excessive compared to the problem addressed. And I think in this particular case, with an eight percent across-the-board valuation increase in addition to what Mr. Morrissey has already indicated that he was going to put in place, which was a 7 to 12 percent increase on residential property, that would add up to, for some homes in Douglas County, a 20 percent increase in one year for their valuations. And I think, by any standards, that would be excessive compared to the problem addressed. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wickersham on the Quandahl amendment to LB 36.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the information that Senator Quandahl gave us about the additional funding that the Douglas County commissioners are providing to the County Assessor. As I indicated earlier, I think that's the right approach. I was unaware that they decided, or have proposed, to give that office more resources. That is, in fact, what is needed. If it is the kind of order that the TERC may have entered or may continue to make that promotes that effort, that's also what's needed. Now, I think that you...if you were