



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

1503 First Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651
Tel: (208) 466-7861 -- Fax: (208) 463-0092
Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

Local Properties Risk Sale At Public Auction Due To Unpaid Irrigation District Taxes

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For Media Information Contact:
Daren Coon - (208) 466-7861

Six Ada and Canyon County properties with a combined assessed value of \$704,400 will be sold at public auction August 21 because the owners have failed to pay a total of \$3,087 in irrigation taxes owed to the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District, NMID officials announced today.

In one instance, a Boise home assessed at a value of \$393,900 could be sold for \$643.51 in unpaid taxes, an amount that represents less than two-tenths of 1 per cent of its assessed value.

One property is in Boise, two in Meridian and three in Nampa.

The tax deed auction comes because the owners have failed to pay their irrigation taxes for the years 2014 through 2018.

A certified letter warning of the pending tax deed action was mailed in June to the property owners in addition to several other written notices. Legal notices listing the properties were also published in the local daily newspaper, according to Daren Coon, NMID Secretary/Treasurer.

“These sales are extreme cases that represent just a tiny fraction of the more than 37,000 patrons in our District. Still, the owners’ failure to pay the annual assessments has put the properties in jeopardy. We go to great lengths to try to avoid these types of tax deed sale situations but it is out of our hands. Idaho law is very specific about what steps the District is required to take to recover the tax money owed on the property,” according to Coon.

Although not required, NMID officials generally take an extra step by trying to find and personally notify the property owners by a final-hand delivered notice. Coon plans to do that this coming week.

The tax deed sale, mandated under Idaho law, sets the minimum bid for each property at the amount of taxes owed plus expenses related to the delinquency. However, the property owners can avoid their property being sold by paying the taxes due prior to the opening of the bids. Most tax deed bills are paid before the properties are sold, Coon noted.

The problem arises in some instances when the property is sold but the new owner information is not provided to NMID. That results in the annual tax assessment wrongly going to the previous owners. In other cases property owners mistakenly believe they do not need to pay the annual NMID assessment because they do not receive or use irrigation water, Coon added.

“Idaho law specifies that all property owners in the district are to help pay the costs of maintaining the irrigation system, whether they use water or not. Also, some property owners wrongly believe the irrigation tax payment is part of their escrow tax payment being made by the mortgage company” Coon said.

Local residents can find out if they have unpaid NMID irrigation taxes by visiting the District website at nmid.org. They can also check with the District office at (208) 466-7861.

NMID has since 1904 delivered irrigation water to 69,000 acres of farm, residential and commercial land in the Treasure Valley including pressurized irrigation to more than 15,000 residential and commercial lots. For information about the District call (208) 466-7861 or visit its internet website: www.nmid.org.

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