

State of New Hampshire
Real Estate Appraiser Board
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

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SEP 24 2012

In the Matter of:
Ronald Lavallee
No.: NHCR-647
(Misconduct Allegations)

STATE OF NH
JOINT BOARD

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In order to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings and to promote the best interests of the public and the practice of real estate appraisal, the New Hampshire Board Real Estate Appraisers ("Board") and Ronald Lavallee ("Respondent"), an appraiser licensed by the Board, do hereby stipulate and agree to resolve certain allegations of professional misconduct now pending before the Board according to the following terms and conditions:

1. Pursuant to RSA 310-B:17-a or RSA 310-B:17-b; RSA 310-B:18; RSA 310-B:19; and Real Estate Appraisers Rule ("Rab") Part 205, 206 and 208, the Board has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by appraisers. Pursuant to Rab 205.02 (c) and (d), the Board may, at any time, dispose of such allegations by settlement and without commencing a disciplinary hearing.
2. The Board first granted Respondent a license to practice in the State of New Hampshire on May 1, 2004 as a licensed residential appraiser. Respondent upgraded his license to a certified residential appraiser on October 1, 2005. He currently holds license number NHCR-647. Respondent practices as a certified residential appraiser for Stone Brook Appraisals, LLC, PO Box 16547, Hooksett, New Hampshire, 03106.
3. It was alleged that the Respondent's appraisal report contained a series of errors rendering it misleading.
4. In response to this, the Board conducted an investigation and obtained information from various sources pertaining to Respondent's appraisal report in question.
5. Respondent stipulates that if a disciplinary hearing were to take place, Hearing Counsel would prove that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct, in violation of the following Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (2010-2011 edition), by the following facts:

Conduct

- An appraiser must not use or communicate a report that is know by the appraiser to be misleading or fraudulent
- Must not perform an assignment in a grossly negligent manner.

SR2-1 Each written or oral real property appraisal report must:

- (a) clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that will not be misleading;

6. The Board finds that Respondent committed the acts as described above and concludes that, by engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated RSA 310-B:18; RSA 310-B:18-a;
7. Respondent acknowledges that this conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent's license to practice as a real estate appraiser in the State of New Hampshire.
8. Respondent consents to the Board's imposing the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 310-B:18:
 - A. Respondent is REPRIMANDED.
 - B. Respondent is assessed an ADMINISTRATIVE FINE in the amount of \$2000.00. Payment shall be made in full within 30 days of this agreement in the form of a money order or bank check made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Hampshire" and delivered to the Board's office at 57 Regional Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.
 - C. For a continuing period of six (6) months from the effective date of this settlement agreement, Respondent shall furnish a copy of this *Settlement Agreement* to any employer to which Respondent may apply for work as an appraiser or for work as an appraiser and to any agency or authority that licenses, certifies or credentials appraisers, to which Respondent may apply for any professional privileges or recognition, if required during the application process.
9. Respondent's breach of any terms or conditions of this *Settlement Agreement* shall constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to RSA 310-B:18, IX, and a separate and sufficient basis for further disciplinary action by the Board.
10. Except as provided herein, this *Settlement Agreement* shall bar the commencement of further disciplinary action by the Board based upon the misconduct described above. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Order as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any further misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.
11. This *Settlement Agreement* shall become a permanent part of Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.
12. Respondent voluntarily enters into and signs this *Settlement Agreement* and states that no promises or representations have been made to him other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.
13. The Board agrees that in return for Respondent's executing this *Settlement Agreement*, the Board will not proceed with the formal adjudicatory process based upon the facts described herein.
14. Respondent understands that his action in entering into this *Settlement Agreement* is a final act and not subject to reconsideration or judicial review or appeal.
15. Respondent has had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of his choosing in connection with his decision to enter into this agreement.

16. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of this *Settlement Agreement*. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire *Settlement Agreement* shall be null and void. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the Board during its review of this *Settlement Agreement* have prejudiced his right to a fair and impartial hearing in the future if this *Settlement Agreement* is not accepted by the Board.
17. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time he signs this *Settlement Agreement*.
18. Respondent certifies that he has read this document titled *Settlement Agreement*. Respondent understands that he has the right to a formal adjudicatory hearing concerning this matter and that at said hearing he would possess the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to present evidence, to testify on his own behalf, to contest the allegations, to present oral argument, and to appeal to the courts. Further, Respondent fully understands the nature, qualities and dimensions of these rights. Respondent understands that by signing this *Settlement Agreement*, he waives these rights as they pertain to the misconduct described herein.
19. This *Settlement Agreement* shall take effect as an Order of the Board on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the Board.

FOR RESPONDENT

Date: 9/22/2012

Ronald Lavallee
Ronald Lavallee
Respondent

FOR THE BOARD/*

This proceeding is hereby terminated in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above.

Date: 11/2/2012

Louise Lavertu
(Signature)

Louise Lavertu
(Print or Type Name)
Louise Lavertu

Authorized Representative of the
New Hampshire Real Estate Appraiser Board

/* Mark Correnti, SRA Board member, recused.

v.09.11