

11/09/05

Marie Camping is appealing the late charge penalty on a special assessment, indicating she had not received notice that any such bill was due. In researching this matter, I find that all notices of code violation, subsequent invoices, notice of an assessment hearing and the bill to pay the original assessment were sent to Ms. Camping at the address furnished to the City by the County Assessor, as required by State Law. This address indicated Rapid City, SD 57702. Apparently Ms. Camping's address is actually Nemo, 57759. It is also apparent that when the notices were returned to us as nondeliverable, that Finance Office staff attempted to locate another address through the phone book and on-line white pages, with no success.

It is unfortunate that Ms. Camping was not made aware of the code violation and subsequent actions. However, the City did follow State Law in utilizing the address furnished by the County and even spent additional effort in an attempt to locate another mailing address. The work was done, the assessment is proper, and the late payment penalty of \$14.11 has been assessed by the County.

The breakdown of her assessment is \$80 for debris removal, \$42 for inspection, and \$100 for the assessment process for a total of \$222 principal, \$19.98 interest and \$14.11 late payment penalty. All appropriate laws have been followed. The City diligently attempted to locate an address for Ms. Camping. The assessment, including the applicable interest and penalty, should be collected in full.