

TAXATION COMMITTEE MEETING
January 11, 2018

Present: Legislators Randy LaChausse, Andrea Moroughan and Greg Kulzer; County Manager Ryan Piche and Real Property Tax Director Candy Akin

The meeting was called at 3:45 p.m.

Candy distributed and reviewed her self-explanatory report (attached).

She reported that 97% of her 2017 budget had been expended.

Candy reported that the 22 apportioned tax bills were for those that sold a portion of their property.

The Real Property Tax office received hundreds of calls in response to the Governor's 12/22/17 Executive Order that allowed owners to pay their 2018 property tax in 2017 to avail income tax credits.

The sole property owner request for inclusion into the Agriculture District will be reviewed by the Planning Board. Planning Director Frank Pace and Candy Akin will review the proposal on 1/17/18.

Candy reported that Veterans' Service Director Steve Kilionski had researched most of the 39 Lewis County veteran property owners eligible for the increased exemption from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and confirmed there were none who had invested more than \$5,000. The property tax impact, therefore, would be nominal if any of the remaining veterans request the increased exemption.

She had reached out to IDA Director Eric Virkler, who indicated the ReEnergy Lyonsdale plant may repurpose their company to solar or another alternative renewable energy source.

The Town of West Turin renamed a private road "Beaver Trail" due to ongoing addition of camp parcels on what used to be a private driveway.

Legislator LaChausse inquired whether property taxes could be paid in increments? Candy stated the State law allows partial/installment payments, however, none of the local school districts nor the County have opted to implement that process. The Treasurer's Office would require updated software and additional personnel to handle the increased collections and tracking. It was noted that Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties have implemented partial property tax payments.

Legislator LaChausse cited the plight of farmers who are beholden to the government for their milk prices, while operational expenses continue to escalate.

Candy clarified the tax bills would indicate the amount of interest due at each interval payment. The Towns/Villages and Schools retain interest payments until the parcels are returned to the County.

Ryan Piche stated he would research associated costs.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board

REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

Candy Akin, CCD - Director
Committee Meeting – January 11, 2018 – 3:30 pm

Committee:

Randy LaChausse – Chairman
Andrea Moroughan
Greg Kulzer

Ryan Piche – County Manager
Terry Clark – Clerk of the Board

Resolutions:

None

Budget Report:

Department is on budget. YTD Budget Report attached.

New Business:

County/town bills have been processed and mailed. We are currently preparing approximately 22 apportioned tax bills. Tax bills were pulled for parcels that were sold after we started generating tax bills and labels made for the new owners.

Due to the new tax reform, Governor Cuomo passed and Executive Order on 12/22/2017 allowing property owners to prepay their 2018 taxes. We received countless calls from individuals who wished to pay their 2018 taxes prior to January 1st. Thank you to Ryan and Adam for assisting with getting the information out to our taxpayers to ease the burden on our office. Ryan put together a media release, Adam set up a link on our website, and I converted the tax rolls to PDF format so they could be posted.

The 2017 Annual Agricultural District 30-Day Inclusion Period was from November 15 – December 15, 2017. We received one request for inclusion into the Ag District. We are currently awaiting the Board's decision. Frank Pace has scheduled the review meeting for January 17 at 8:30am.

Old Business:

The Veteran's Office reviewed the files they had on all property owners receiving the eligible funds exemption and found that none of the veterans invested over \$5,000. Therefore, they will not be mailing out letters informing the veterans of the available increase to \$7,500.

Lyonsdale Biomass has decided to close even after their PILOT agreement was amended through the IDA. Eric Virkler has indicated that he expects they will pay the January 31, 2018 \$100,000 PILOT payment, but is not positive. The county's portion of that payment would be approximately \$27,357.

Sales:

Sales are currently available on the website through November 20, 2017. Now that taxes are done, we will be able to resume keeping the sales current. I anticipate having the sales through the end of 2017 updated and on the website by the end of the month.

911:

The weather has slowed down the number of requests for new numbers last month. We assigned and/or corrected 17 new numbers since our December 18th meeting. We received authorization from the town of West Turin to use a new private road named "Beaver Trail". We will be assigning six new numbers for parcels on this private road.

End of Report