



MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT
May 14, 2024 – County Services Committee

- ❖ April 12th homestead exemption forms were mailed out to property owners for renewal of their exemptions. Those exemptions have been coming back to our office steadily by mail and in person. Homestead exemption applications for the 2024 tax year are due by December 31st except for the Leasehold Application which has a deadline of July 1st.
- ❖ Assessment Office recently posted a job listing for a full-time clerical position.
 - This position was formerly a 32 hour per week part-time position left unfilled while our office built back from two full-time vacancies. The 2024 budget was approved for this position to increase from 32 hours per week to full-time (37.5 hours per week).
 - Applications are being reviewed and interviews will be scheduled in the next coming weeks.
- ❖ Board of Review opening meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2024. Member Jim Smith's term ends May 31, 2024. After 27 years on the Board of Review, Jim is retiring from his position. We are exploring options for his replacement.
- ❖ Farmland Assessment Review Committee will also have their annual meeting on June 13th, 2024. Judy Truckenbrod and Jim Schielein's terms are due for reappointment this year. Resolutions for their reappointments are attached.
- ❖ Intergovernmental Agreement between Lee County and City of Dixon for GIS hosting services has been updated. The new Agreement has been reviewed and approved by our State's Attorney and the City of Dixon's legal counsel.
 - Board Action Request with updated Intergovernmental Agreement is attached.
 - Original Agreement was signed in 2018.
 - Due to the increase in costs since 2018, the 2024 Agreement reflects an increase in fees from \$25,000 annually to \$28,000 annually.
 - For consistency the new agreement will automatically be renewed on an annual basis with a 3% increase in fees each year. This is a model we use for the townships that contract with us for assessment work also has worked well in that scenario.
- ❖ Resolution Supporting Illinois House Bill 4512 (HB4512).
 - IL State Representative, Cyril Nichols has proposed HB4512 and it was passed to the Rules Committee on January 1, 2024.
 - I am asking the County Board to pass a Resolution in support of this bill. (Board Action Request with Resolution Attached).
 - If passed, HB4512 would allow counties to fulfill property assessment publication mandate by posting the information on their website.
 - With newspaper subscriptions declining, website publication would reach more taxpayers.
 - Parcels are cumbersome to locate in a newspaper listing, often being misinterpreted by the reader.
 - Information published in the newspaper listing is limited to parcel number, assessed value and owner name.



- Change of Assessment Notices are mailed mandated publication parcels.
 - Notices are mailed to the mailing address of the property directly.
 - There is more complete information in the Notices including Property Type, Prior Year and Current Year Assessment, Reason for Change, Total assessed and Fair Market Value, Homestead Exemptions available and applied, township assessor contact information and Deadline to File an Appeal of the assessment
 - Lee County Website has up to date tax record information available currently that can be searched for by name, address, or parcel number.
- Illinois State Association of Counties has issued a Position Statement in support of HB4512. ISACo defines the current law and proposed change in their Position Statement in the excerpt below. Full Position Statement attached.

Current Law:

In general assessment years, counties must post a list of all property assessments in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. In the years between general assessments, counties are mandated to publish in a newspaper a list of only those real property assessments that have been changed.

Proposed Change:

The General Assembly and Governor should amend the law to allow county governments to meet property assessment publication mandate by either publishing the information on a county website or in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. Allowing counties to fulfill the publication mandate on their website would save taxpayers thousands of dollars annually.

- For the above listed reasons, I am asking this Resolution to be passed for the benefit of our taxpayers and Lee County. If passed an average of \$9,000 per year would go back into the County Funds to be used for something of more value to the taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO
Chief County Assessment Officer/GIS Supervisor