

September 9, 2016

Property Tax Collections Update

As of August 31 the real property tax collection rate was 54.15%. This rate is 2.15 percentage points lower than the reported rate at the end of August 2015.

However, two (2) large commercial taxpayers paid their taxes on September 1. These same taxpayers paid their taxes on August 31 in 2015. If these transactions had posted in August, the County's collection rate as of August 31 would have exceeded the rate at the end of August 2015.

Tax exemption audits continue to yield positive revenue results as well. Over the past twelve (12) months, a total of 414 randomly selected farm, conservation and forestry present use program audits have been performed.

Ninety-one (91 or 18%) of the parcels were disqualified as a result of the audits. This resulted in the County realizing an additional \$4.5 million in assessed valuation (ad valorem tax base). At the current tax rate, this ad valorem value equates to \$30,150 in additional property tax revenue annually.

FY 16-17 Sales Tax Update

Sales tax revenue for July 2016 (September 2016 report) was \$107,479 (15.5%) more than June 2016 (August 2016 report), and sales tax revenue for July 2016 was \$61,621 (8%) higher than the same revenue source in July 2015.

However, please note the addition of a new sales tax article for seventy-nine (79) rural counties in FY 16-17 contributed to the fairly significant difference.

The County anticipated and budgeted \$465,000 specifically associated with this new sales tax article for FY 16-17. 100% of the \$465,000 in revenue was earmarked for the local school system.

EDC Increases Existing Industry Focus

One of the Economic Development Commission's (EDC) strategic objectives beginning in calendar year 2014 was to develop and sustain a more effective business retention and expansion program.

Prior to 2014, the EDC's efforts had been more reactive than proactive. As such, the EDC sought a more focused strategy to assist local businesses and industry with the goal of enhanced job growth and investment.

By meeting with local companies, the EDC has been able to assist with issues such as workforce development, regulatory items, utility concerns and access to capital.

Over the past twenty-four (24) months, the EDC staff has increased the number of existing industry visits by 16, which is an average of eight (8) additional visits per year.

In the current fiscal year, the EDC is seeking to increase the number of annual visits by another 10%.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Stanly COG Liaison Mtg	Tuesday, September 27 6:30 PM Locust Town Center
Regular Board Meeting	Monday, October 3 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room
Regular Board Meeting	Monday, October 17 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room