

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY**

In compliance with Section 1532 R.P.T.L.

County Reporting: Allegany

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2015

Major Functions: Maintenance of Assessment Rolls, Tax Rolls,  
Tax Bills, Tax Maps and Assessor Training

### **MAINTENANCE OF ASSESSMENT ROLLS AND TAX ROLLS:**

The production of Assessment Rolls, Tax Rolls, Tax Bills, Cross Reference Listings, Change of Assessment Notices, Sales Transmittals and Special Reports were all processed by Allegany County. This includes the 19 School Districts, 29 Towns and 10 Villages that have assessable property in Allegany County. There are 29 towns with the Real Property System on their own computers and they were responsible for their own processing in 2015. We provided program and technical support for the Real Property System for these towns.

### **TAX MAP MAINTENANCE:**

Tax maps were maintained for all 29 towns in the county. Copies of new deeds, land contract sales, and property transfer reports (RP-5217's) were delivered daily by the County Clerk's Office. Split-offs of property sales are plotted on the maps; also, map overlays and new tax map index cards are generated. The overlays and a copy of the index cards are sent to the assessors along with copies of the deeds and property transfer reports. There were 1,923 transfers in Allegany County in 2015. Revenue from the sale of tax maps, deed reviews and pictometry photos was \$10,711.73. All tax maps have been digitized and the NYSORPTS has approved and certified them for use. Two thousand and ten marked the first year that this office used a Geo Database system to maintain the tax map information. All tax maps have also been updated to the NAD83 projection making our data more compatible with other data throughout the State.

### **ASSESSOR TRAINING:**

Assessors in New York State must meet minimum training requirements. When assessors do not meet these requirements, they can be removed from office. We have coordinated assessor training with the State Office of Real Property Tax Services and held an Assessor Orientation in our office for a newly appointed assessor. Many of the assessors in Allegany County took advantage of the consolidated training courses offered by the State Office of Real Property Tax Services. The Allegany County Assessors Association met monthly and several training seminars were conducted at these meetings.

### **DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES:**

Over the last couple of years, New York State has restructured and remodeled Real Property Tax Services with the department now falling under "Tax & Finance". Under the new structure there is a noticeable drop in support at the state level. Assessors and localities are increasingly dependent upon the County for technical, legal and operational, assistance and help. This trend is likely to continue as the state consolidates and does away with "Real Property Tax Services". As the County shoulders more of the assessment and valuation assistance, we are looking at ways to add value while maximizing our role to the municipalities. One example is switching to ABS to assist us in running tax bills. Using this contractor allows our office better control over the formatting and running of bills while having less reliance on the state. In addition, we are able to realize some actual savings through cheaper bill supplies. We are working with the County Treasurer's Office in putting together the county catalog of tax sale properties with our assessment information and photos provided by the assessors. We continue to update and upgrade our assessment information via our internet website. I am an active member of the Western Region County Directors Association and the New York State Directors Association. I attended the winter training conference in Latham, NY, and fall training conference in Vernon, NY. Our office continues to host the monthly County Assessors Association meetings where we continue to assist them in their efforts to maintain equity throughout the county. I would like to thank my staff for their efforts and hard work, and the Board of Legislators for their continued support.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Joseph L. Budinger  
Director of Real Property Tax Service Agency