

Schuyler County Takes Action to Help Deliver Property Tax Deductibility for County Taxpayers

Watkins Glen, NY (December 27, 2017) --Schuyler County officials are working to help property owners who itemize their deductions pre-pay their 2018 property taxes in the hope residents can receive benefits before restrictions take effect under the new federal tax law.

Late last week (December 22), New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order relative to tax payments made in 2017 for 2018 tax bills. According to state officials, the order authorizes local governments to immediately issue tax warrants for the collection of 2018 property tax payments and allows property owners to pay their tax bill before the end of the year and under the current tax rules.

In consideration of this news, and to allow Schuyler County taxpayers the chance to take advantage of potential future tax benefits, Dennis Fagan, the Chairman of the Schuyler County Legislature, will be signing the warrant this year effective Thursday, December 28. Each town tax collector is now authorized to accept payments of warranted taxes from property owners until the close of business on Friday, December 29, 2017.

This would be in the hopes, pending IRS determinations, that such pre-payment would be allowable as a deduction in tax year 2017 as there are impending restrictions on property tax deductions in the new Federal tax bill for those who itemize their deductions. Town/county tax bills are released by the County to the collectors (town level) officially via a tax warrant. By present law, this can be done on any date post-budget adoption up to and including the 31st of December.

Property owners are required to pay their property taxes at the town level through Town Tax Collectors. The County only accepts payments after April 15. County landowners should contact their Town Tax Collector to determine if taxes can be paid on December 29 (Friday) in person. If they contact their Tax Collector or the County Real property Office (535-8118) to obtain the proper amount due, taxpayers can also postmark payments up until December 30th if they are seeking pre-payment benefit.

In summary:

- The warrant date determines when people can base a payment of a legal amount due;
- Your Town Tax Collector is the responsible party for tax collection;
- The County, via the Towns, is positioned to allow people to make 2018 payments for Town/County taxes due in calendar year 2017 and these payments must be made to the local Town Tax Collector.

It should be noted that any commentary here should not be construed as legal or tax accounting advice. Additionally, the above process is only applicable to 2018 Town/County tax bills and not Village or School tax bills.