

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1999/12:00 P.M./WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ginger announced that Thetford Township Supervisor, Harold Brady, passed away. Contributions can be made to the Senior Citizens Center.

Ginger said a questionnaire was mailed with the meeting notice and if anyone needed another one, please pick one up, fill it out and leave it on the table and we will get them after the meeting.

The MTA meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> at Flint Township. The guest speaker will be Sheriff Pickell.

The County Treasurer's meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the County Equalization Department.

Ginger stated that she attended the meeting regarding Act 51. A committee has been formed and they are looking at what we think would be a good distribution of the gas tax money. They will present the plan to the legislature in Lansing. If anyone has any thoughts on Act 51, please contact Ginger.

Jeff Cyphert announced that County Treasurer, Dan Kildee and his staff received a Certificate of Excellence and Genesee County is the second county in the State of Michigan to receive the certificate.

GUEST SPEAKER: Dan Kildee, Genesee County Treasurer

Mr. Kildee spoke on the Tax Reversion Bill. He said the new legislation takes effect October 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated there will be a training session by the Michigan Treasurer's Association in southeast Michigan, held at the Sarvis Center in Flint, on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The fee will be \$10.00 and includes lunch. He said he encourages everyone to attend, as they will be reviewing the law, one step at a time. Also, it would be beneficial for the Assessor's to attend this meeting.

Mr. Kildee said for many years efforts have been made to change the tax reversion system in Michigan. He gave a hand out to everyone to help them better understand the difference in the two laws. Mr. Kildee gave a brief explanation of the change. The new law requires that the taxes be returned to the County Treasurer on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 26 months after, they are turned over to the County for a tax lien sale. Some pay the taxes and get the lien on the property. A year and a half after this, the lien person can obtain a title. We are not doing the taxpayers any favors to continue extending time for the process. We have a longer system than most states have. The system delays our ability to deal with abandoned properties, which negatively impacts the surrounding area.

Mr. Kildee stated that the new system will have the local areas turn the taxes over to the County and we will then collect them. Rather than having a tax lien sale, we go through a one year delinquency and after two years go through foreclosure and the title will be transferred to the County Treasurer. We will then have two or three clear title tax auctions. It is a much fairer process to the taxpayers. He said it's important to protect the citizens because most people don't understand the tax reversion system. It's important for the people to know and understand where they are in the process. There are several steps to be covered under the new system. The county does have options if we choose to allow the State to do foreclosures. This was done because of the Headlee Law. It is our choice whether we want to conduct the foreclosures after the first year of delinquency. When it comes to taking away an individual's property, we get more comfort in knowing it is done the proper way. If it is done wrong and under our control, something can be done about the situation. When it comes to reuse of property, it should be left to the local area, which is better than having the State have control. If a property goes through the reversion process and not sold in a tax sale, it goes to the local units first and if they don't want it, then it comes back to the County.

Mr. Kildee entertained questions from the membership.

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Mr. Kildee said a count is needed of the number of people attending the seminar by October 11<sup>th</sup>. A \$10.00 fee is being charged and will be collected at the door.

Ginger said the next meeting will be October 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE  
Deputy City Clerk

CML