

## **TIOGA COUNTY OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

The Real Property Tax Services Office seeks to improve the administration and understanding of the Real Property Tax to achieve equity for the taxpayers of Tioga County.

In 2018 Tioga County Office of Real Property Tax Service operated with two full-time employees; Director, Specialist III. We strive to function at the highest level of performance to service the public, Assessors, taxpayers, school districts, while meeting State & County requirements. We are now located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, room 103 in the, Ronald E. Dougherty Bldg. at 56 Main St in the Village of Owego.

- Board of Assessment Review training was in April of 2018
- Town of Berkshire is at 100% full market value
- Towns of Candor, Spencer and Richford have equalization rates above 90% of full market value. Town of Nichols had an increase in equalization rates. Towns of Barton, Newark Valley and Owego had a decrease change in equalization rates.
- The Village of Waverly in the Town of Barton remains an assessing village.
- Committed to maintaining our State certified tax maps as accurate as possible by correcting errors that are brought to our attention. Real Property and IT department hired an in house GIS technician which enable our department to end our contract with MRB and shift our \$33,000 contract budget to IT budget to help support the GIS technician position. With this change we are able to have a better handle on tax mapping issues and we are able to improve mapping processing time and service to the assessors.
- Our office processed 1,681 deed transfers this past year.
- Currently Tioga County parcel count is at 26,131 which is an increase of 46 parcels from 2017.
- Public has become familiar with and regularly uses our website, which has been revised to be more user friendly. This has reduced traffic in our office for basic information.
- We continue to produce tentative and final assessment rolls, tax bills for villages, and town and county bills. Six school districts are contracting with BOCES for their tax bill production. Our office currently prints tax bills and tax rolls for eight school districts which includes the biggest school district Owego Apalachin.
- We process assessor reports for the state, work with and assist the assessing offices, town clerks and village offices wherever needed.
- We work to reduce spending by keeping a tight budget; cutting corners where we are able without sacrificing services.
- We continue to look for new revenue opportunities to lessen the County's reliance on property taxes.

We provide services to all participants in and users of Real Property while also performing the duties of this office according to Real property Tax Law Section 1532

The Real Property Department is a resource center for municipalities, other county departments and the general public. We are an extension of the assessor's office for each municipality and we handle all questions regarding real property and tax mapping issues. We are a resource for assessors in regards to problem solving unique assessment issues. Maintenance of tax maps, processing and reviewing deed transfers is part of our office functions. We also maintain and update county website real property portal with the most recent property information, tax maps, tax rolls, final rolls and tentative rolls for county, town, village and schools.