Computer issues keep Oconee tax notices on hold

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Computer software issues are still holding up the mailing of tax notices that should have started going out earlier this month to Oconee County taxpayers.

The problem kept Auditor Ken Nix from processing the tax roll for the public to access by Sept. 30 as required by state law. Nix asked and received a one-month extension from the South Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR).

On Tuesday, Nix said that he hopes to have the tax rolls ready for public view next week. If that happens, he said tax notices would be mailed in one or two weeks.

Causing the delay is the conversion of the Auditor and Treasurer's data software to match a system implemented by the Assessor's Office in 2006. Before the conversion to one system this year, both systems were used in preparing the tax notices.

Nix hopes to have the compatibility issues resolved this week, but if not, he has the option of asking for another extension from DOR.

"If our conversion is acceptable this week, we will not need to ask for another extension," Nix said.

DOR spokesperson Adrienne Fairwell said the delay in getting tax notices sent out in Oconee should not change the Jan. 15 deadline for tax bills to be paid. She said the law requires payment no later than Jan. 15 or 30 days after the mailing date of the tax notice.

Fairwell said that even if Oconee were to ask and receive another extension, tax bills would be out by Dec. 15 to give taxpayers a 30-day window to pay the tax bill.

However, state law (12-4-520) does give DOR the power to extend the time for the collection of taxes and postpone the time for the imposition of penalties.

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