

Oconee reassessment appeals

Initial review is 72 percent

BY CARLOS GALARZA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County is almost three-quarters of the way through reviewing more than 6,200 reassessment appeals filed by property owners.

Taxpayers flooded the Oconee Assessor's Office with 6,221 appeals that beat the Dec. 9 filing deadline.

County Administrator Scott Moulder said Tuesday that the number includes appeals that

came in with a correct post-mark date of Dec. 9, but were received after the deadline. Initially, Moulder reported that appeals had fallen short of 6,000 because of duplications.

The 2011 appeals surpassed the approximately 5,800 challenges made during the 2006 reassessment that was described by some critics as chaotic. It took several years for Oconee to resolve the 2006 appeals.

Moulder said 72 percent of the 6,221 appeals had been completed by the appraiser. He

said 21 percent of the reviews resulted in no changes being made.



Moulder

The Journal on Tuesday asked the county to provide a breakdown of how many of the appeals resulted in lower assessments and to quantify the amount. The information was not available at press time.

Property owners not satisfied after a review by the Apprais-

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climb to 6,221

complete

er's Office have the option of taking their challenge to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Moulder said 17 applications have been submitted to the Board, but no hearings had been scheduled as of Tuesday.

Moulder said that Tyler Technologies Inc., the company Oconee paid \$1.8 million to undertake the countywide reassessment, will represent the county in the formal hearings before the Board.

Tyler closed its temporary offices at the Brown Building

in Walhalla on Oct. 21, after completing the 250 person days allotted for informal hearings in its contract. The company also is required to represent the county for up to 25 person days during formal hearings.

Many property owners, including Councilman Wayne McCall, criticized Tyler's work and complained that the company relied too much on satellite photos in appraising properties.