Reassessment back on track

Oconee vows to help keep delays to a minimum

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WALHALLA — Oconee County does not have to cough up an additional $90,000 on software to get this year's countywide reassessment of property completed.

County Administrator Scott Moulder has told Oconee County Council that Tyler Technologies, Inc., the private company handling reassessment, would use the county's Manatron system after all.

Moulder's report is a complete reversal from last month when he told council the Manatron system would not be used for reassessment because it was outputting unreliable data. He said the county would instead pay $90,000 to Tyler Technologies to use its own tax software for reassessment.

However, since breaking the bad news to council July 21, Moulder said Oconee's IT staff has been able to work out the kinks in the Manatron system.

Moulder said Manatron, Inc. has recommitted to working with the county to resolve issues with the system and is sending two company representatives to reinitiate training with county personnel.

IT staff also took the initiative to visit Orangeburg and Colleton counties, which also use the Manatron system. Moulder said Orangeburg IT staff pointed out a step in the Manatron process that Oconee IT staff had missed.

"We were at fault with some of our issues," Moulder said. "There was a piece we were missing."

In the meantime, Moulder said the May 1, 2011 deadline the county gave Tyler to provide sales and proposed valuations would have to be tweaked. Moulder said there has been an eight-week delay in reassessment because of the issues with Manatron.

Moulder said he would work with Tyler to shorten the delay gap by having county personnel help out with data entry.

Tyler signed a $1.8 million contract with Oconee to handle its entire reassessment, including holding informal hearings with property owners that appeal their assessments.

The county's agreement with Tyler called for the company to generate assessment notices using Manatron. The mailing of notices is set for July 1.

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