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Taxing problems

Issues that delayed notices last year remain unresolved

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WALHALLA — Oconee County is still dealing with the same software issues that delayed the mailing of tax notices last year. County Administrator Scott Moulder said Thursday that a nagging compatibility problem has yet to be fixed almost 11 months after it surfaced.

The county has been dealing with the issue since the assessor's Office acquired a Manatron Government Revenue Management System in the spring of 2006. Since then, county staff has had problems converting the assessor's Manatron system to the Smith Data QS/1 system in the adjoining auditor's office.

Auditor Ken Nix was granted two 30-day extensions from the Department of Revenue last year to mail out tax notices past the deadline established by state law. The hold up delayed the collection of taxes in Oconee.

The hiccup in the tax software system is yet another fire for Moulder to put out since becoming administrator June 1.

"We are struggling with the data conversions for tax processing," Moulder said. "The auditor and I have been working with a team of staff to resolve the issue. At this point we are on schedule to mail out the tax notices without the need of an extension."


Moulder


Nix

District 1 Councilman Paul Corbeil also acknowledged the software problems and catalogued it in with jail and courthouse construction issues that have bounced around for years but never been addressed.

Corbeil said it is inconceivable to him that those issues went unresolved for so long. He blamed it in part to high turnover on council and a lack of leadership.

Based in Kalamazoo, Mich., Manatron is a leading provider of software products for state and local governments.

Although Oconee is apparently having the same issues that the staff experienced a year ago, Moulder said he was confident "we are much closer to eliminating the problem for this year and in the future."

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