

# County tax collections down \$4M

## Total could surpass 2019 pending Duke Energy appeal

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WALHALLA — As Oconee County property tax bills roll in, there's been a dip of almost \$4 million in collections compared to last year as the county awaits word on

a potential appeal from its largest taxpayer.

A total of \$93.57 million had been paid to Oconee County in property taxes as of Jan. 24, while the county had received \$97.46 million at the same time in 2019.

Taxes must be paid by

Jan. 15 to avoid penalties, county chief deputy treasurer Connie Bellotte said.

Duke Energy, the county's largest taxpayer, received a bill of \$32,111,052 and elected to pay 80 percent of it, coming in at \$25,698,905.

Should Duke Energy

be required to pay the remaining 20 percent, it would push the county's total tax collections up to \$99.99 million.

Duke Energy spokesman Ryan Mosier didn't have an update on whether the company had appealed its property tax

## from a year ago

bill to the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

Beginning in 2018, the SCDOR must notify affected counties whenever there is a written protest of a property tax bill.

A total of 77,727 tax bills were mailed out, and 64,843 have been paid as of Jan. 24, according to information provided by Bellotte.

Last year, 76,315 property

tax bills were mailed out.

A 3 percent penalty applies for unpaid bills on Jan. 16, followed by a 10 percent penalty on Feb. 4 and a 15 percent penalty on March 17.

The tentative date for the delinquent tax collector to take properties to be sold at auction is Nov. 2, Bellotte said.

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