

January 14, 2008

TO: Robert Campbell, Mayor and Township Committee

FROM: Maria Berkett, Tax Collector

2008 Annual Report of the Tax Collector

2008 Annual Statement of Receipts

Please see attachment

	Tax Levy	Tax Rate	Ratio	Collection Rate
2007	\$7,852,238.81	3.623	61.26	97.39%
2008	\$8,145,712.21 (+293,473.40)	3.562	59.82	97.69% (+.30%)

Line Items

Number of properties being billed

2007	1412
2008	1489 (+77)

Budget

2007 \$8,522.00 – significantly under budget for year

2008 \$7,600.00 – did not exceed budget for year

2008 Tax Sale

Held on March 28, 2008 for delinquent municipal charges. Ten properties went to sale. One property was turned over to the municipality as a Municipal Lien. \$123,300.00 was collected for premium payments. This amount stays in the Tax Collector's Lien Redemption account and all interest earned on this amount is remitted to the municipality. If no lien redemption occurs within five years the lienholder loses the premium and the entire premium is remitted to the municipality. 2009 anticipated tax sale date is March.

The township continues to grow, many residents have questions about the assessed value of their house, tax billing, mortgage company escrows and overall information about the township. As a result of this growth there has been an increase in many aspects of the tax office. We have many of our residents who need assistance with completion of the required forms for various State Rebate programs (Senior Citizen/Disabled Deduction, Veterans, Homestead Rebate and Property Tax Reimbursement) to name a few. We have experienced increased volume in quarterly collection of tax payments as well as a higher number of delinquent notices being sent out every quarter.

Currently there are two properties enrolled in the "in lieu of" program. Each property must be manually billed twice a year. This entails a significant amount of time, but the municipality benefits from this program.

As Tax Search Officer I completed 107 tax searches this year. As you can clearly see the tax levy increased significantly but the collection rate for 2008 exceeded 2007. There was a different tax collection system installed this year. I met the challenge of learning a new system without any disruption to the tax office, or inconvenience to the residents.

I anticipate an increased workload with the upcoming revaluation. I will continue to meet the challenges presented by a growing community and an upcoming revaluation with professionalism and provide superior and friendly service to all of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Berkett
Tax Collector