

Bradley J. Slagh
Ottawa County Treasurer



News Release

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OTTAWA COUNTY TREASURER ISSUES \$10 MILLION DELINQUENT TAX PAYMENTS

Grand Haven, Mich. — Bradley Slagh Treasurer of Ottawa County processed over \$10 million of checks to local governments to settle for delinquent property taxes

Ottawa County Treasurer, Bradley Slagh announced the completion of the annual settlement of local government tax rolls with the county, and the resulting payment to each government, school district and special assessment district for the delinquent real property taxes. The checks worth a total of \$10,240,218.29 for 5,396 properties will be mailed out in the middle of April.

State law sets the payment of property taxes to be collected by the local government until March 1. After that time, the County Treasurer must “purchase” any unpaid (delinquent) taxes from each local government by paying the entire taxes owed so that the schools, local governments and everyone else can keep operating. This means that the collection of delinquent taxes then becomes the responsibility of the Ottawa County Treasurer.

“Even though this dollar amount seems very large, the good news is that for the third year in a row the volume of delinquent properties and dollar amounts have continued to decrease,” Slagh noted. In 2009 Ottawa County paid out over \$14.9 million

The funding to make this large group of payments is done through the success of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF) established by the Ottawa County Commissioners and administered by County Treasurer, Bradley Slagh. “This program allows local taxing units to receive all of their property tax revenues now rather than having to wait until the delinquent taxes are paid. Full payment by property owners doesn’t happen for months or even years in some cases,” Slagh noted.

Slagh also noted, “The County Board of Commissioners had the foresight to establish the fund and then maintain a sustainable balance in the DTRF, so that when the Treasurer collects the delinquent taxes annually it replenishes the funds making it unnecessary to borrow to make the delinquent tax purchases.”

When taxpayers are unable to pay property taxes, that property by law is subject to tax foreclosure. Slagh added, “We work hard to keep people in their homes, and owning their businesses, the Treasurer’s office and website offer ideas and assistance in looking for ways to keep people and their property together”.

For more information contact Ottawa County Treasurer Bradley Slagh at bslagh@miottawa.org or call 616-994-4505