

To: Gerrish Township Board

From: Karleen Helmreich, Township Assessor

Re: Assessor Report, April

Currently the Assessor is working on preparing to update the 2021 BSA database to meet the CAMA Standards required by the State Tax Commission. Part of this update will require all 700 class parcels (exempt properties) to be manually change to 200 (vacant) or 201 (improved) and the taxable status changed to "exempt". This is hoped to be completed before the July Board of Review.

Below is an update from the Roscommon County ED regarding Covid-19 restrictions. Please note David Buick is the acting State Tax Commission Director.

Good afternoon Assessor Friends,

I hope you are all healthy!

Fieldwork: Dave Buick attended the Director meeting today. He provided little information on the future, in terms of if/how fieldwork should be conducted. The state is planning to wait until at least late May before deciding if they will broach this issue. He made it clear that the laws have not changed, 20% is a recommendation – not a law, and that we are all well positioned and have the authority to make the decision about what is best for our specific governmental units. At this point I have spoken with nearly half of the County Directors and dozens of Assessors, no one is doing on site fieldwork at this time and don't anticipate doing much, if any, this year. Some thoughts: use the internet to look at "For Sale" and "Recently Sold" properties. Listings provide a lot of what we need. Use GIS, this tool can be useful. Drive-by's have been discussed and many are doing this for their 20% for this year in combination with GIS/internet research. If I hear more I will send you all an update.

CAMA Standards: Dan Bengal, BS&A, was in attendance at the "zoom" meeting today too. The May 1, 2020 BS&A update should be done on your ROLLED OVER database. Please plan to rollover your database soon, if you have not already. I would like to see us all be ready and go ahead and run the update for ALL of the new CAMA Standards, rather than just the ones that are immediately required. This will allow for us plenty of time to work through any hiccups.

Education: Most education classes are being canceled far into the summer. MAA and MAED Conferences, MAA Spring and Summer Schools have been canceled. The majority of Assessors I have talked with are opting to do the free online Con-Ed classes. A good suggestion was to go ahead and work on those now, while you are "staying at home", so that your Con-Ed is done and out of the way for the year. Certification Classes: It is unclear how this will proceed. Kelli Sobel is retiring on 4/30. The state has a Zero-hiring policy in place due to the money being reallocated to COVID-19 spending. If you are in a situation where you are taking or planning to take certification classes in 2020 you may want to let me know and in turn I will keep you informed as I get more information