

COUNTY COMPUTER COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
March 8, 2011

Ad Valorem Division

Kelli Minson	Cathy Ridenour	Rob Tigner
Gerald Sherrill	Kim Cain	Larry Rawlings
Scott Warren	Eric Dillinger	Teresa Strawther
Kathi Mask	Gail Hedgcoth	Troy Frazier
Debbie Collins	David Tinsley	Cathy Gibson
Brenda Moorhead	Gary Snyder	Jeff Spelman
Cathy Haynes	Donna Giddens	Joe Hapgood
Kenny Chuculate	Linda Coleman	Glen Blood
Michelle Fields	Scott Kirby	

I. The next 4C meeting will be April 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ad Valorem Division.

II. Update on Agricultural Sales Tax Exemption Data Upload Program Status

Jari Burke, Deputy Director of Taxpayer Assistance, OTC, gave an update on the system for county assessors to submit agricultural sales exemption requests to the OTC. The information sent will be the same but how it is delivered to the OTC is changing. Since some counties no longer can produce diskettes, a way to transmit electronically to the Tax Commission has been created. I.T. designed a system to upload information instead of using diskettes, but at the present time, either format is acceptable. This system is called the "Tax Information Bus".

Jenny Bagley (supervisor, Taxpayer Assistance) will assist with this process. Obtain a user I.D. form and submit to I.T. to be assigned a password into the program. This password will be a standardized I.D. for ag exemptions, will be county specific, and only one password will be issued per county. An e-mail confirmation will be sent. Determine who in the office will receive the confirmations. It should not be a personal e-mail address as employees come and go. Oklahoma County has already begun the process.

To use the system, some software will be downloaded. Filezilla is used for this program. For now, there is still a need for a paper report, but that may change in the future.

Do not wait to submit the information too close to the expiration date of the exemptions. It's recommended to send it every Friday, every 2 weeks, or even once a month. Printing of the cards will be done daily or twice a week, depending on the workload. OTC will upload to the mainframe, edit, and then print.

Debbie Collins asked why some names come back misspelled; are they re-entered by OTC? Jari replied they are not retyped, but sometimes the names on the renewal and the exemption on file do not match. OTC mails out error reports. OTC uses “last name, first”; the computer could find a name similar but not a match. The error report is sent to the assessor who calls the OTC with corrected information. Another error might be that the social security numbers do not match. Sandy Johnson (522-0869) is the supervisor to contact to make corrections on the error report. If it’s just an address change, the system will change the address.

The assessors can now begin to set up user I.D.s. Gerald Sherrill volunteered to be one of the first to make the transition. Debbie Collins asked Gerald to send out an e-mail after he has gone through the process to let others know how it went.

Scott Warren inquired about the second line of the address, which is an important issue for the assessors. Some years ago, OTC agreed to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> line available. Jari responded a second line is not available this year, but she remembers the agreement although not sure how the second line got dropped. She agreed that it is useful and should be made available; further, she had hoped by now to have a new mainframe which would allow for easier accommodation of a second line.

Carol Bomhoff commented it would take some assistance for CCAP, that it doesn’t look like something which could just happen; a few things will need to be done. Jari said she tried to contact Johnny Caldwell but found that he had retired. Gerald Sherrill said he sends information to \_\_\_(vendor) and it is attached through them; no need for Filezilla.

Jari asked that she be called and told the information is about to be sent; she will watch for it. This will help in the initial monitoring of the programs functions.

Information about this new system will be provided in the Ad Valorem Forum and posted on the tax.ok.gov website.

### III. Discussion of Issues Involved with Counties Switching to State CAMA and AA Software

Jeff Spelman said when someone comes back into the State system, when that requests comes OTC has to do a lot of shifting of folks. In order to prepare for that, it is requested that counties make their intentions known through the 4C committee. That way a timeline can be created to accommodate all those involved in the transition. It needs to be coordinated as far ahead as possible. Texas County may make this transition. It’s tough on OTC field personnel. Joe added timing and coordination are necessary, and there are particular issues which arise relative to

the different counties. There can have a general approach, but it gets county specific. These differences are a primary concern.

Eric Dillenger (Carter County) stated the state's technology is lagging behind the vendors. Kim Cain said things run smoother when there is a person there to help the conversion process, someone who knows the CAMA system. She is trying to save her county money by going to the State system. Jeff Spelman replied that during her conversation about it, Glen was working on statewide updates, so it was hard to send someone to Carter County due to those circumstances. Kim said there needs to be a timeline, and Debbie C. added that OTC and CLGT need to know what is going on in order to make arrangements. Eric said they were sending e-mails to Bill Wadsworth as early as March, but Bill would not do anything without the OTC telling him to do it.

Eric said their system used Oracle, and he had to pull it out and in order to change it to the state program. Example: The OTC table has 16 classes of houses where as the Realware system had 27 classes. It was not an easy process to figure out how that data was stored. Eric wants the OTC to put together a conversion team ready to go to a county's aid if it should want to move to the state system. Joe said at this time the OTC is dealing with 10 county projects all of which are just as important with similar priorities, and there are only so many resources.

Glen said they need more planning before the conversion is actually done. There are several ways to approach it. Glen was on the phone with Paul Bendt through the whole thing. Kim commented she does not know what she would do had she not had Eric on staff. Jeff announced that Eric is leaving Carter County to start work with Colorado Customware next week.

Glen said the first OTC heard about the conversion was when it was mentioned at a 4C meeting. Debbie added it is a learning process, and there is a lot of preparation before you can get into the conversion.

Eric inquired how much money is spent on the CAMA contract each year, and the answer from Jeff was \$100,000. Eric commented it is 18 years old and low-tech. Jeff responded that the State had allocated \$26,000,000 for computers for the county, all paid for by the State. There are no more chances to get money like that.

Debbie said they have no problems. The near twenty-year old system still works, and that without the states initial outlay, many counties would never have gotten them otherwise.

Eric suggested there be a conversion team who will know to do the same thing everytime. Debbie responded that conversion rarely happen, so it's hard for

anyone to know what to do. Glen added that since 1993, this system has produced values in an organized way while many others have tried unsuccessfully.

Kim requested that someone from the State come to her county and stay there until all is resolved in her system. She paid Paul Bendt \$50,000 to do data conversions. Eric said that did not include sketches or mobile homes, and there was a lot of cleanup corrections on the data. Jeff asked about the quality underneath the data, the software, etc. Eric said they do not know the answer. Jeff suggested that following dismissal of the 4C meeting, Scott Warren and OTC stay and talk more about the issue. Committee chair, Debbie Collins, agreed.

#### IV. Status Report on CAMA Windows; Status Report on AA Windows

Glen said he had worked out a lot of problems with the new system. He worked with Scott Warren and Bill Wadsworth on some things: the SALEX file, note memo screen, report screens. One or 2 items could be added to the "solution list" screen. This would let you do clean-up easier. In Major County the screen size was switching. Carter County has issues. Glen put Carter data on his laptop and it worked, so some of the problems are in other areas affecting Carter County, perhaps in the server. Several things were fixed in that county during this process.

Glen said the new system is working well. Garfield County is hitting it hard on the real side, and there are no problems in that county. Glen is working toward installing in more counties as soon as possible.

Glen said there are several things they would like to see done when they get to a county to install such as a license on a work station in shared folder. Carol B said put it on a view station and leave it on. Gerald S. asked if it could run on Linux.

Scott inquired if Bill Wadsworth is trying to run CAMA on a different server. Glen replied they were getting it on a Windows server. It worked fine on the Garfield server. Troy said a shared folder works just fine but not on Linux.

Scott provided that Carter County AA system uses the server rights the same as CAMA does. It causes him wonder to why it is that sometimes if there is something done in the CAMA system that relies on the Windows server, why is it more sensitive on Linux. Eric said Bill W. does not know if it is a Linux issue or not. Eric does not think they can put AA on a Linux server. Scott asked, PDF error, does it matter what server; no, right? Glen said no, it is not the PRC deal; also the sketch setup has to be run on each machine. Glen can show him what to do. Troy said use a team viewer.

In Scott's AA report, he said 10 to 15 are on the new compiler upgrade, AA updated. He is tweaking it a bit. The work stations and networks are getting

fouled up with games, music, etc. To download, it takes 1.5 seconds like the one at home. But, some of the county computers take 20 – 25 seconds. It can take 10 to 20 in some counties. It's got to be a corruption issue or band issue. Windows 7 shows it took 20 minutes. Johnny stripped and re-installed and it worked in a few counties. It could be a corrupt work station.

Rob suggested getting some of the work stations offline. Scott said the counties that have no internet issues have the least problems.

Cathy Haynes said Pittsburg County switch issues are coming back and it's being re-checked. Debbie C said her courthouse went to a different internet provider She suggested counties unplug the internet connection. Replacing a switch might fix the problem. Debbie is getting all new cable.

Carol B reported that some were using a Thomas Kinkade screensaver which bogged down the system. Forewarn them that this brings the computer server down. Cathy H said her treasurer's office is on the internet all the time. Carol told her the auditor's office has guidelines for internet use.

#### V. Current County Hardware/Software Issues

Rob Tigner reported Beckham County could get on internet but could not get on the server; a DNS address issue. Settings were changed somehow. Carol said some were gone. Alfalfa County has an HP color laser printer that is very slow when printing. Called HP which admitted the drivers on the printers were corrupt. Printing would occur in black & white but not color.

#### VI. Other New Business Requiring Discussion

None

Adjourn.

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