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**Town of Hamilton and Madison County Share Services for 2014 Tax Collection**

Hamilton, NY, December 16, 2013-

In an effort to streamline the tax collection process and save staff time and money, the Town of Hamilton and Madison County have joined together in a pilot program for the 2014 tax collection. Through an agreement with Madison County, all of the 2014 tax collection will be handled for the town at the Madison County Treasurer's Office.

Historically, taxes have always been collected at the town office from January 1 through April 30, handed over to the County, which then processed the payments into their data system. Each municipality duplicated the same process, creating inefficiencies and lack of access to real-time tax collection information. As part of the agreement, the Town and County will be using the same tax collection software and will have access to payments made at the county level for tracking, reporting, and payment information.

“This pilot program with Madison County is important as Governor Cuomo continues to push for shared services. If this program is successful, it will encourage other townships to follow,” stated Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton Supervisor.

What tax payers in the Town of Hamilton need to know:

- All tax payment need to be made payable to Madison County Treasurer and mailed to Madison County Treasurer's Office at PO Box 665, Wampsville, NY 13163.
- Taxpayers can pay in person by going to the Madison County Treasurer's Office, located at 138 North Court Street in Wampsville. The Treasurer's office will be available to accept payments starting January 1, 2014 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm each day except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.
- A new option - payments can be made online with a credit card or e-check at [www.xpress-pay.com](http://www.xpress-pay.com) and then by selecting Madison County. Fees will apply.
- Every property owner will receive a paid tax receipt from the Madison County Treasurer's Office reflecting payment in the mail.
- Taxpayers should note that any tax bill in excess of \$100 may be paid in two equal installments, the first to be collected no later than January 31, 2014. Providing that the first installment has been collected, the second installment, with statutory interest, is due no later than April 30, 2014.

- Note that April 30, 2014 is the last day for Tax Collection in Madison County and that tax bills received by mail MUST be 'postmarked' April 30, 2014 to be accepted.
- Taxes may be paid on or before January 31, 2014 without charge or interest. Tax bills received by mail MUST be 'postmarked' January 31, 2014. A one percent charge will be added to unpaid taxes on February 1, 2014, a two percent charge plus a \$2.00 reminder fee will be added to unpaid taxes on March 1, 2014, a three percent charge will be added to unpaid taxes on April 1, 2014.

Sue Reymers, Town of Hamilton Town Clerk/Collector commented, "As the new tax collector for the Town of Hamilton, I am open to new ways of doing things. It may take a year or two to work out some of the logistics, but if it saves taxpayers money down the road, the growing pains will be worth it."

For more information, contact Sue Reymers at the Town of Hamilton at 315-824-3380, or visit [www.TownofHamiltonNY.org](http://www.TownofHamiltonNY.org).

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