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PRESS RELEASE

Date: August 6, 2009

From: Derek W. DeVine, Seneca County Prosecutor & David J. Claus, Assistant Seneca County Prosecutor

Re: Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes 2009

In July, 2009 the Seneca County Prosecutor's Office began the process of collecting delinquent taxes from those property owners who have failed to pay their real estate taxes to Seneca County. Working from a list provided by Seneca County Auditor Julie A. Adkins, the Prosecutor's Office sent out 196 letters providing those property owners with a final opportunity to pay delinquent taxes before commencing the tax foreclosure process.

"The letters were successful" advised Assistant Prosecutor David Claus. "As of August 6, 2009, our office has collected \$96,004.69 for the citizens of Seneca County", said Claus. Of those who have still not paid their real estate taxes, Seneca County Prosecutor Derek DeVine added, "we are still accepting payments at this time, however, costs incurred by the county for title searches and preparation of foreclosure complaints will mean that taxpayers will incur substantially higher costs in addition to the amount of delinquent taxes in the very near future. Now is the time to pay these debts to avoid incurring those additional expenses" added DeVine.

According to documents provided by the Seneca County Treasurer, \$653,200.38 in delinquent taxes was owed to the county at the start of this process. "We are pleased that we are able to significantly reduce that amount at this early stage of the collections process," said DeVine. Claus reiterated that "the law provides for everybody to pay their taxes. We do not want to foreclose on people's homes, but we have an obligation to collect and these taxes will be collected one way or another. Paying now is a bargain compared to the expenses that will be incurred with the commencement of the foreclosure process."

Of the 248 parcels identified as delinquent, 68 have already been removed from the delinquent tax list. "We will order the title searches in the next couple of weeks," said Claus. Upon receipt of the title searches, the prosecutor's office will commence foreclosure actions to recover the remaining delinquent real estate taxes.

Please direct any questions regarding the collection of delinquent taxes to (419) 448-4444 David J. Claus at extension 131; Derek W. DeVine at extension 150; or their legal assistant Amy Dunn at extension 130.