

AS THE SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS, TERRY ABELL I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE 2019 REAL ESTATE TAXES THAT ARE PAYABLE IN 2020 AND EXPLAIN TO THE CITIZENS OF WHITE COUNTY WHY THEY ARE RUNNING BEHIND. I AM BY NO MEANS MAKING EXCUSES BECAUSE AS OUR COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN DONNIE PUCKETT READ FROM MY LETTER AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING THAT I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DELAY. IN THE PAST 2 YEARS I HAVE HAD SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS, IN 2019 I WAS HOSPITALIZED AND THIS YEAR I WENT TO THE MAYO CLINIC WHERE THEY FINALLY FOUND OUT WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS AND I AM ON THE MEND AND WE ARE GETTING EVERYTHING BACK ON TRACK FOR THE 2020 TAXES THAT WILL BE DUE IN 2021. I AM VERY PROUD AND PLEASED TO SAY THERE IS NO EQUALIZATION FACTOR THAT HAD TO BE ADDED FOR 2019. I HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THIS OFFICE FOR 21 YEARS AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS IN 2014. FOR 20 OF THOSE YEARS WE HAVE HAD TO PUT A COUNTY WIDE EQUALIZATION FACTOR ON WHICH RAISES THE ASSESSED VALUES BECAUSE WE WAS NOT AT OR CLOSE TO THE 33 1/3% OF MARKET VALUE. BUT FOR THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF AMY EDWARDS ASSESSOR FOR CARMI, MILL SHOALS, BURNT PRAIRIE, GRAY, ENFIELD AND INDIAN CREEK TOWNSHIPS, GARY BAXLEY ASSESSOR FOR HAWTHORNE, HERALDS PRAIRIE, EMMA AND PHILLIPS TOWNSHIPS, MYSELF AND THE GIRLS THAT WORK IN MY OFFICE STACI HUFFER, RACHEL HAMBLIN AND TERESA JOHNSON THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. WHEN ALL NEW AND OLD PROPERTIES ARE ASSESSED FAIRLY AND PROPERLY THE TAX BURDEN IS EVENLY DISTRIBUTED AND NOT THE BURDEN OF A FEW. WE ARE STILL WAITING ON THE FINAL MULTIPLIER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND WHEN I GET THAT BACK THEN I CAN SEND THE INFORMATION ON TO THE COUNTY CLERK AND THEN SHE SENDS ALL OF IT ON TO THE TREASURER TO SEND OUT TAXES. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THE TREASURER IS TAKING PAYMENTS BASED ON LAST YEARS TAX AMOUNT IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD INTEREST ANYONE WANTING TO PAY. WE HAVE ALSO HAD QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE INSTALLMENT DUE DATES AND THOSE WILL BE ADJUSTED TO THE TIME PERIOD OF THE MAILING OF THE TAX BILLS. I SINCERELY WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE AND CONFUSION THIS HAS CAUSED. THANK YOU