

January 19, 2017

Crawford Central School District
11280 Mercer Pike
Meadville, PA 16335

Dear Crawford Central School Board Members,

As you know, the contract for the next four year term of Crawford Central Tax Collectors has to be approved prior to February 15, 2017. With that date quickly approaching, we would like to go over our thoughts on the new contract. In 2006, the billing was changed to two times per year, along with the addition of Installment Payments for taxpayers, as well as Homestead/Farmstead discounts given for the first time in 2008. Most of these changes have been great for the taxpayers; it is such a wonderful feeling to be able to explain to a taxpayer that they are receiving a savings off of their School District Real Estate bill at a time when so many people are struggling to pay their bills. Obviously; however, these changes have also created more work for the Tax Collectors. We have not had a cost of living increase in the last 8 years, and the new contract is in affect for the next four years.

After much consideration, we have decided that one of the most reasonable changes that we could ask for in the new contract is for payment to include a cost of living increase to allow for our increased annual out-of-pocket expenses; (as our pay does not include any benefits and we have the expense of maintaining our home offices, utilities, homeowners insurance, office supplies, health insurance, etc.). Current payment is at \$1000.00 initial payment, followed by \$8.00 per parcel for collected and uncollected parcels and \$10.00 per parcel for those paying by installment. Due to the current economy, there are more and more taxpayers that are paying through the installment plan. When a person pays by installment, it virtually means that the tax collector does three times the amount of work than the regular payment.

We appreciate you taking into account the many long hours and time spent working with the taxpayers and administration in Crawford Central School District. We are honored and proud to be a part of the Crawford Central team.

Once again, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Longstreth, Vernon Township
Janet Peters, West Mead Township*

*Representatives for Crawford Central School District
Tax Collectors*