

# THOMAS J. PAUL

## ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR

April 13, 2009

To: Erie County Commissioners

From: Thomas J. Paul, Erie County Auditor

Subject: 2008 Calendar Year Annual Report

Here are the items that I feel are significant and notable for calendar year 2008:

- We finished the 2007 Consolidated Annual Financial Report. We reported the results to the Audit Committee in December of 2008 which was a significant improvement over the last two years' reports. The goal of the office is to have the 2008 CAFR done by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline this year and to report to the Audit Committee by the end of the third quarter of 2009.
- We also completed for the first time in Erie County history, to my knowledge, a Popular Annual Financial Report which is a condensed version of the CAFR which was mentioned above. The PAFR is supposed to be more user friendly and more easily understood by the non financial portion of our population.
- We received 213 Board of Revision Complaints in calendar year 2008 for the tax year 2007. All were heard and decisions made by the Board of Revision of which the Auditor is Secretary by statute of the Ohio Revised Code. We expect 2009 to increase significantly but not set a record. That will probably happen in calendar year 2010 after the tri-update for tax year 2009.
- We have 67 Board of Tax Appeal hearings still languishing in Columbus at the Department of Taxation at last count. With reduced staffing and the cutting of operation funds at the State I expect this number to skyrocket in the coming years, unfortunately. This will result in more calls to the Auditor's office and more disgruntled residents.
- There were 2,900 deed transfers in 2008 compared to 3,343 in 2007. There were also 168 lot splits, combinations and new surveys and plats filed in 2008 as compared to 278 in 2007.

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Secretary, Erie County Board of Revision  
Secretary, Erie County Budget Commission  
Member, Erie County Records Commission  
Sealer, Weights & Measures

This is not a good trend since it is indicative of the lack of growth and investment that Erie County is showing.

- We continue to refine and become accustomed to working with the new Real Estate Program that we purchased in 2007 from Manatron since our previous system became obsolete. There have been some challenges but overall the residents of Erie County should not have noticed any differences.
- We also refined and updated our Conveyance Requirements with the cooperation with the help and input of the Erie County Engineer's office and Mr. Lickfelt from the Erie County Prosecutor's office.

This is a brief summary of the calendar year 2008 for the Erie County Auditor's office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Thomas J. Paul  
Erie County Auditor