

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
COUNTY OF MONROE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
ONE QUAKER PLAZA, ROOM 206
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Erik A. Diemer
Controller

Allison E. Stettler
Deputy Controller

Patrick J. Best, Esq.
Solicitor

AUDIT OF
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH
TAX COLLECTOR
ALBERTA TALLADA

For the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

For the 2023 County/Township taxes covering
A reporting period of January 1, 2023 through January 16, 2024

Monroe County PA Prothonotary
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EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR
ALBERTA TALLADA
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 TO JANUARY 16, 2024
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September 16, 2024

Patrick J. Best, Esq.
Solicitor

Alberta Tallada
611 East Broad Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dear Ms. Tallada:

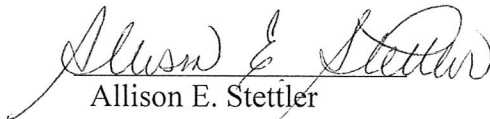
Transmitted herewith for your information is a copy of the audit of the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, and the Statement of Balance Outstanding of real estate taxes for the period of January 1, 2023 to January 16, 2023.

In line with the policy of this office under which all official audit reports are considered to be public information, this report has been filed with the records of the Prothonotary. Copies of this report are available upon request.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.



Erik A. Diemer
Controller



Allison E. Stettler
Deputy Controller/Auditor

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September 16, 2024

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Monroe County Board of Commissioners
Monroe County Administrative Center
One Quaker Plaza
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Dear Commissioners:

We have performed an internal audit of the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, and the Statement of Balance Outstanding, of the East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector, Alberta Tallada, for the period January 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024. The financial statements are the responsibility of the Tax Collector. Our responsibility is limited to the internal audit testing identified in the Scope of Internal Audit below.

As described in Note 3, the Tax Collector prepares its financial statements on the cash basis which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

SCOPE OF INTERNAL AUDIT

- Agree the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, and the Statement of Balance Outstanding, of the Tax Collector for the period January 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024 to the books of record of the Tax Collector.
- Audit collections and remittances of real estate taxes.
- Document and review the system used by the Tax Collector to account for the collection and disbursement of real estate taxes.
- Confirmation of the uncollected balance of real estate taxes.
- Review compliance with the Pennsylvania *Tax Collectors Manual* for the collection and disbursement of real estate taxes.
- Reconcile the tax duplicate.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the results of our internal audit, the Tax Collector has remitted Monroe County real estate tax collections to the Treasurer of the County of Monroe. The Tax Collector has not complied with the Pennsylvania *Tax Collectors Manual* of the County of Monroe that pertains to the collection of county real estate taxes in all material respects.



Erik A. Diemer
Controller



Allison E. Stettler
Deputy Controller/Auditor

East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector
Alberta Tallada
Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
For the period March 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024

Receipts (Note 4):		Real Estate
General Tax	\$	1,471,182.85
Disbursements (Note 4):		
March	\$	143,709.85
April	\$	328,080.20
May	\$	850,163.73
June	\$	35,411.72
July	\$	46,338.54
August	\$	-
September	\$	2,921.78
October	\$	11,267.07
November	\$	10,796.05
December	\$	7,478.63
January	\$	35,015.28
		\$ 1,471,182.85
*Balance Due (Note 5):	\$	-

Note: The accompanying notes are an integral part of this report.

**East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector
Alberta Tallada
Statement of Balance Outstanding
For the period March 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024**

Real Estate

Amount Charged on Duplicate:

General tax at face	\$ 1,562,219.00
Additions/Refunds	\$ -
Upset Sale Exoneration	\$ -
Deletions/Exonerations	\$ (236.59)
	<hr/>
Total amount available for collections at face (note 6)	\$ 1,561,982.41

Collections:

General tax collected, net	\$ 1,471,182.85
Adjusted net collections to face amounts	
Discounts	\$ 26,835.11
Penalties	\$ (6,313.83)
	<hr/>
Total Amounts collected at face	\$ 1,491,704.13
Balance outstanding at face (note 7):	
Per Treasurer	\$ 70,278.28
Balance outstanding at face):	
Per Tax Claim	\$ 70,278.28
Variance	\$ 0.00

Note: The accompanying notes are an integral part of this report.

**East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector
 Alberta Tallada
 Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
 Interim Taxes
 For the period January 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024**

Receipts (Note 4):	Real Estate
	General Tax \$ 1,377.85

Disbursements (Note 4):

January	\$	-	
February	\$	-	
March	\$	-	
April	\$	-	
May	\$	-	
June	\$	-	
July	\$	-	
August	\$	105.36	
September	\$	1,090.32	
October	\$	19.95	
November	\$	-	
December	\$	162.22	
January	\$	-	
			\$ 1,377.85

Balance Due (Note 5):	\$	-	
			\$ -

Note: The accompanying notes are an integral part of this report.

East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector
Alberta Tallada
Statement of Balance Outstanding For Interim Taxes
For the period January 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024

	Interim A	Interim B	TOTAL
<u>Amount Charged on Duplicate:</u>			
General tax at face	\$ -	\$ 1,550.69	\$ 1,550.69
Additions/Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Deletions/Exonerations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<hr/>			
Total amount available for collections at face (Note 6)	\$ -	\$ 1,550.69	\$ 1,550.69
<u>Collections:</u>			
General tax collected, net	\$ -	\$ 1,377.85	\$ 1,377.85
Adjusted net collections to face amount:			
Discounts:	\$ -	\$ 24.42	\$ 24.42
Penalties:	\$ -	\$ (4.75)	\$ (4.75)
<hr/>			
Total amount collected at face	\$ -	\$ 1,397.52	\$ 1,397.52
Balance outstanding at face Per Treasurer (Note 7):	\$ -	\$ 153.17	\$ 153.17
Balance outstanding at face Per Tax Claim:	\$ -	\$ 153.17	\$ 153.17
Variance	\$ -	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Note: The accompanying notes are an integral part of this report.

EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR
ALBERTA TALLADA
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 TO JANUARY 16, 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The county-related activities of the Tax Collector is an operation, which is included in the entity of Monroe County (the “County”), the primary government. As such, all results of the County- related operations of the Tax Collector are reported in the accounts of the County operations.

Note 2 – Scope of the Examination

The scope of our audit did not include a sufficient examination with respect to the financial statements and records for the preceding period to enable us to, and we do not, express an opinion on the consistency of application of accounting principles for the prior period.

The Tax Collector is responsible for collecting various local taxes, as well as County real estate taxes and library taxes for the County library system. Our audit pertained only to the examination of real estate taxes and did not include a sufficient examination with respect to the overall function of the Tax Collector to enable us to, and we do not, express an opinion on the Tax Collector as a whole.

NOTE: Township, Library and County taxes are invoiced and usually paid at the same time. Therefore, a County finding may correlate to a Township and Library finding.

This report pertains to the tax year that run from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The Tax Collector’s collections and disbursements for this tax year runs from March 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024.

Note 3 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting – The books and records of the Tax Collector for County real estate taxes are maintained on the cash basis of accounting and, therefore, the financial statements presented herein do not purport to present the results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Receipts, which include discounted, base, and penalized real estate taxes and interim real estate taxes, are recorded when received. Disbursements are recorded when they are actually paid. As previously stated, the cash basis of accounting differs from generally accepted accounting principles. Under generally accepted accounting principles, revenues are recognized in the period earned, and expenditures are recognized in the period incurred, which gives effect to accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued items.

EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR
ALBERTA TALLADA
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 TO JANUARY 16, 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 3 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Basis of Presentation - The Monroe County Controller's Office uses the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements and the Statement of Balance Outstanding to report the activities and balance outstanding of tax collector's County-related activities. These statements represent the collection of County tax monies as well as acknowledge receipt of the collections by the County and represent the balance of assessed taxes remaining to be collected for the tax year. These statements are not intended to present either financial results of operations or financial position in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Note 4 – Receipts and Disbursements

Receipts are comprised of collections of taxpayer monies for the period audited.

Disbursements are comprised of remittances to the county of collected taxpayer monies.

Note 5 – Balance Due

This balance represents receipts collected by the tax collector but not yet disbursed to the County as of the end of the audit period. This is due primarily to timing differences between cash receipts and subsequent remittance to the County.

NOTE: A small miscellaneous difference may be noted in the Balance Due line, which is usually the result of rounding errors.

Note 6 – Total Amount Available for Collection (Face)

This balance represents the adjusted balance of taxes which the tax collector has been authorized to collect for the tax year, as of the end of the audit period. It is the result of the original tax established for the year (duplicate), adjusted for additions, refunds or exonerations, as authorized by the County.

EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR
ALBERTA TALLADA
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2023 TO JANUARY 16, 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 7 – Balance Outstanding (Face)

This balance represents the total of authorized taxes remaining to be collected for the tax year by the Tax Collector.

Any outstanding taxes due were turned over to the Monroe County Tax Claim Bureau. Based on the Tax Collector's submittal to Monroe County, a listing of the unpaid taxes is prepared by the county. (The listing is hereinafter referred to as the "unpaid tax listing").

Note 8 – Elected Official

Alberta Tallada served as the Tax Collector for East Stroudsburg Borough for the period audited.

Note 9 – Real Estate Taxes

Real estate taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1 and are levied on March 1. All county real estate taxes are collected by elected tax collectors. Taxes may be paid during three periods: discount, face and penalty. Taxes paid from March 1 through April 30, the discount period, receive a two percent discount. Taxes paid from May 1 through June 30 are paid at the face amount. Taxes paid after June 30 are assessed a ten percent penalty. All taxes outstanding at the end of the tax year are returned to the county by the tax collector and are collected by the County Tax Claims office.

For the audit period, real estate taxes were levied at the rate of 3.2273 mills on every dollar of adjusted valuation for general and debt service purposes. An additional amount of .169013 mills was levied for the County library system.

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September 16, 2024

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Monroe County Board of Commissioners
Monroe County Administrative Center
One Quaker Plaza
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Dear Board of Commissioners:

We have performed an audit of the East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector for the period January 1, 2023 to January 16, 2024 and have issued our report thereon dated September 16, 2024. In planning and performing our audit we considered the Tax Collector's internal control structure in order to determine the extent of our internal auditing procedures and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure.

During our audit, we noted certain matters involving the internal control structure or compliance with the Pennsylvania *Tax Collectors Manual*.

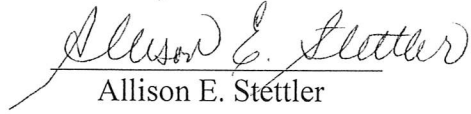
At the end of this audit period, the Tax Collector's bank balance was in the amount of \$51,285.72. Unaccounted funds remaining in an account at the end of an audit period are indicative of the fact that the Tax Collector has not disbursed all collected monies. In an effort to establish the amount of unaccounted funds, the check register of the Tax Collector is needed annually. Despite numerous requests, the Tax Collector has failed to provide the County with prior years check registers.

The Tax Collector recently communicated to this office that all prior year tax records were destroyed due to flooding. A statement outlining the details of the incident was requested of the Tax Collector; to date, a statement has not been received.

This report is intended for the information and use of the East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector, the Borough of East Stroudsburg, the Monroe County Controller's Office and the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. However, public policy dictates that this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.



Erik A. Diemer
Controller



Allison E. Stettler
Deputy Controller/Auditor

East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector
Alberta Tallada
Audit Distribution List

1. Alberta Tallada East Stroudsburg Borough Tax Collector
2. Monroe County Commissioners
3. Monroe County Treasurer
4. Monroe County Prothonotary
5. East Stroudsburg Borough Council
6. Monroe County Controller
7. East Stroudsburg School District
8. Audit File