

Elkhart County Auditor's Office

DAVID L. HESS, AUDITOR

December 6, 2007

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Charlie Bell
Director of Operations
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N1058
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Charlie,

On September 26, 2007, I received a letter from DLGF requesting information on all agreements relative to Elkhart County's CAMA and Property Tax Billing system. After a review of the September 26th letter the Data Department personnel as well as myself decided that only a short response was needed. This was based on our interpretation of the request and the fact that our current system is an in-house AS400 system operated by our own in-house programmers. A copy of my e-mail of October 3, 2007 is attached.

Recently, Mike Deniston, regional DLGF representative called inquiring why we had not responded to the September 26, 2007, request. I assured Mike that we had complied but if needed, I will send additional information to your department concerning our future direction.

As I mentioned, our current CAMA system is an old Cole Layer Trumble (C.L.T.) system that has been upgraded with a number of patches. When C.L.T. went bankrupt a number of years ago, Elkhart County sued C.L.T. for breach of contract and damages. Part of that settlement awarded the operating code for the system to Elkhart County. Since that time all changes and programming of the CAMA system as well as the tax and billing system have been performed by our staff in our own Data Department. However, that will change as we migrate to a new system.

In June, 2007, Elkhart County contracted with Government Utilities Technology Service (GUTS) to provide Elkhart County with a new CAMA/Tax and Billing system. (See attached contract.) This new system costing over \$700,000 will bring all three offices; County Assessor, County Auditor and County Treasurer into a unified system. It is our intent to use this system for the 07 pay 08 tax bills and have the system certified by DLGF sometime in 2008. This system is internet and windows based and will allow our employees to work in multiple years, which is not possible with our current system.

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I am also including a copy of the GIS contract that the County has with the Sidwell company. We utilize the GIS system for all of our parcel layer data and in the new GUTS system, once a parcel is created it will be populated by the Assessor's office for values. The record will then have the deductions and other information relative to the deduction process added by the Auditor's office. However at this time there is no direct correlation between the GIS system and the GUTS system. We simply create the parcel on the GIS system and will move the newly created parcel to the CAMA side of the GUTS system.

I trust that this material and the contracts provided will meet the specific requests of your September 26th letter. If you need additional information please contact the Elkhart County Auditor's office and we will try to comply with any future request.

Sincerely,



David L. Hess
Elkhart County Auditor

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Enclosures 1. Copy of e-mail response to Charlie Bell
 2. Copy of GUTS contract
 3. Sidwell Company GIS contract

cc: Mike Deniston – No Enclosures