Item Title: Tax Committee Recommendations for Value Adjustments, Penalty Waivers, Tax Relief Applications, Refund Requests and Various Reports

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners approves the attached recommendations by the Tax Committee.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners approves all tax relief actions requested by taxpayers. On a monthly basis, the Tax Committee meets to consider taxpayer requests and makes recommendations to the Board.

Background: If a taxpayer believes they have been billed incorrectly, wish to appeal a decision of the Tax Administration, seek relief of penalties or submit a late request for exemption, exclusion or deferment, they can request a hearing before the Tax Committee.

The Tax Committee meets monthly and makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Board approves all tax relief actions. The Tax Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Tax Administration's Conference Room to review requests and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. This meeting is publicized and open to the public.

The Tax Committee presents information to the Wake County Board of Commissioners each month for review, showing the name of the taxpayer, description of property, account number, tax year, relief sought, and recommended action.

Board Goal: This item supports routine business of the County as required by North Carolina General Statutes and does not relate to a specific Board initiative.

Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact of this item varies from month to month based on requests but is generally negligible as a percent of the total County budget.

Additional Information:

The Tax Committee is comprised of Kim Lorbacher, Financial Services Manager with Wake County Finance; Natasha Baldwin, Finance Manager with the City of Raleigh and Jessica Murphy-Rhem, Accounting Supervisor with the Town of Cary. Marcus Kinrade, Wake County Tax Administrator, serves as the clerk to the Tax Committee.

Some reasons a property owner may request a hearing before the Tax Committee are:

- They were penalized for listing personal property after January 31.
- They take exception to the value placed on their property and received notice of the value after the Board of Equalization and Review adjourned.
- Their personal property listing was audited and they are seeking relief of discovered value or applicable penalties.
- They filed a late application for an exemption, exclusion or deferment on a property.
- An application for exemption, exclusion or deferment was denied by the Tax Administration and the wish to appeal that decision.
- A penalty was imposed for the late filing or late payment of a gross receipt tax and penalty relief is requested.
- A refund has been requested for a tax imposed through a clerical error, an illegal tax, or a tax levied for an illegal purpose.
- A refund exceeding the threshold the finance officer is authorized to issue has been requested.

The tax committee has adopted criteria that may provide partial or full relief of late list penalties applied to personal property discoveries if one of the following criteria is met:

1. The property owner is new to North Carolina.
2. The property owner inadvertently neglected to list equipment in the first year of ownership.
3. Prior year property listings were timely filed.
4. Items were inadvertently omitted from a listing filed timely.
5. The property owner was on military deployment or medically incapacitated.
6. The property owner self-reported assets that were not listed properly in prior years.
7. The property owner was cooperative with an audit and no property tax was lost due to being beyond the five-year audit period.

Attachments:

1. Tax Committee Agenda Process
2. Executive Summary 1 and 2
3. Refunds Under $500.00 / Over $500.00
4. Daily Updates for Exemptions, Penalties, Tax Relief, Special Situations and Tax Deferments
5. Municipal Collection Report
6. Wake County Collection Report
7. Monthly In-Rem Foreclosure Report
8. PFB Summary Report
9. Register of Deeds Report