

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

SUBMITTED BY SUZETTE BOOY, DIRECTOR – COLUMBIA COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY

The Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency has discovered an error regarding Acreage on the 2011-2012 School Tax Bills for the following School Districts: Chatham, Ichabod Crane, Taconic Hills, Pine Plains (Columbia County portion only), Red Hook (Columbia County portion only), Webutuck (Columbia County portion only) & Schodack (Columbia County portion only). The Agency is using a new program to produce tax bills this year and it appears the program has rounded (up and/or down) the amount of acreage that each parcel has (on the tax bill only). The School Districts' Tax Rolls do display the correct acreage. For example if a taxpayer owns 2.04 acres, the Tax Bill is displaying 2.00 acres. Suzette Booy, Director of the Agency has notified the School Districts of the errors as well as the new tax bill programmers. The error is quickly being rectified in the program and the 2012 Town & County Tax Bills WILL display the correct acreage for each parcel (as well as next year's school tax bills).

Taxpayers that wish to verify their correct acreage (as of Taxable Status Date of 3/1/11) can do so by going to the Columbia County Website: [www.columbiacountyny.com](http://www.columbiacountyny.com) and clicking on the link at the top of the page that says: 2011 Final Assessments & Parcel Inventory. At that point, taxpayers will need to choose the Town that their parcel is in as well as enter the SBL (Tax Map Number) as displayed on their tax bill. The total acreage/size of the parcel will then be displayed on the first screen that is shown. If taxpayers do not have internet access and would like to verify their acreage they can do so by calling the Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency at 518-828-7334. Mrs. Booy would like to assure taxpayers however that if their property was not recently subdivided and/or surveyed, their total parcel acreage HAS NOT changed, the program for TAX BILL PRINTING ONLY rounded the number instead of printing the exact acreage.