

# **TERMS AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE ANNUAL TAX SALE OF JUNE 18, 2012 AND ADJOURNMENTS OR ASSIGNMENTS THEREOF**

*Terms and conditions of the 2012 June Tax Sale:  
Please read carefully as some of the terms have changed.*

The 2012 annual tax sale will be held by the Pottawattamie County Treasurer on **Monday, June 18, 2012**. This year the sale will be at **The Mid-America Center**. It is located at One Arena Way, Council Bluffs, Iowa ([www.midamericacenter.com](http://www.midamericacenter.com) for directions). The tax sale will begin promptly at **9:00 a.m.** and will continue until every parcel has been offered for sale. We will be taking a break for lunch. Food will not be allowed in The Mid-America Center however, there will be a concession stand available and there are restaurants in the area. No one will be allowed into the sale area early.

**Important Information** to be implemented for the 2012 tax sale include but are not limited to the following:

- **Deadline for registration** is 12:00 Noon Thursday, June 14, 2012
- **Iowa Code Section 446.16 Bid—Purchaser—Bidder Registration Fee.**  
NEW SUBSECTION 4. Only those persons as defined in section 4.1 are authorized to register to bid or to bid at the tax sale or to own a tax sale certificate by purchase, assignment, or otherwise. To be authorized to register to bid or to bid at a tax sale or to own a tax sale certificate, a person, other than an individual, must have a federal tax identification number and either a designation of agent for service of process on file with the secretary of state or a verified statement meeting the requirements of chapter 547 on file with the county recorder of the county in which the person wishes to register to bid or to bid at tax sale or of the county where the property that is the subject of the tax sale certificate is located.
- **Bidder Registration:** Bidder registration will not be considered complete unless proof of bidder / buyer compliance with Iowa Code Section 446.16 new subsection 4 is provided to the treasurer's office prior to deadline for registration.

## **1. Electronic Devices Prohibited**

Cellular phones, pagers, tape recorders, camcorders, and other audible electronic devices are to be turned off during the sale. Laptop or notebook computers are allowed only if they are operated from battery packs. A violation in the use of electronic devices may result in the disqualification of the bidder.

## **2. Registering for the Tax Sale**

Registration and bidder authorization fees are nonrefundable.

\*\*\* The registration fee per bidder is \$50.00. The Treasurer's Office must receive the properly completed forms with the registration fee by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2012. **There will not be any registrations taken on Monday.** The Registration fee includes bidding at the June 2012 sale and all associated adjourned tax sales.

**The Bidder must properly complete the following forms:**

1. Registration of Tax Sale Buyer or Assignee – must be signed and completed each tax sale year.
2. W-9 – This W-9 form must be completed to issue an accurate 1099-INT statement with appropriate social security number or taxpayer identification number.
3. Authorization to Represent Bidder – A registrant may, through a completed ‘Authorization to Represent Bidder’ form filed with the County treasurer, designate one agent to bid on his or her behalf during the 2012 annual and adjourned tax sales. **The ‘Authorization to represent Bidder’ form must be signed by the same individual who signed the ‘Registration of Tax Sale Buyer or Assignee’, and ‘W-9’ forms.** Errors, omissions, or misrepresentations by a tax sale bidder may disqualify the bidder from the sale and all certificates purchased by the disqualified bidder during the sale may be canceled and re-offered to other properly registered bidders.
4. Proof of compliance with House File 256 – Iowa Code 446.16 new subsection 4.

Please mail registration forms to:

**Judy Ann Miller**  
**Pottawattamie County Treasurer**  
**227 S 6<sup>th</sup> St**  
**Council Bluffs IA 51501**

A registered bidder will pick up his/her bidder card at the tax sale location between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on Monday June 18, 2012. Bidders arriving late will need to wait until the first break to have their numbers activated for the sale.

All bidders/buyers/assignees must be 18 years of age or older as of June 18, 2012. Proof of valid age, i.e., driver’s license or birth certificate, picture id will be required by the Treasurers’ Office.

**3. Bidding at the Tax Sale**

Parcels with delinquent taxes will be offered for sale by item number, by taxing district, as reflected in the tax sale publication. **It is the bidder's responsibility to be prepared for the sale and to know the item number(s) within each district in which you are interested.**

Each parcel will be offered for sale beginning with the first item. After the item has been announced an active bidder **will be selected by a random drawing.** The bidder selected by random drawing must immediately accept the purchase of the item by announcing **“sold”** or refuse by announcing **“pass”**, in which case another bidder will be randomly selected.

**4. Purchasing Tax Sale Certificates**

Payment is required at the conclusion of the sale. The amount collected will include all delinquent taxes, special assessments, interest, special assessment collection fees, rates or charges, publishing costs, and a \$20.00 certificate fee for each certificate issued. We will accept payment in the form of cash, cashiers check, money order and personal checks. We will not accept wire transfers, ach or credit cards for payment of tax sale certificates. Checks not honored by the bank for any reason will result in the cancellation of tax sale certificates.

Please allow 10 days to receive your certificate (s). At the time certificates are mailed or picked up, reimbursement will be included for those parcels that have been redeemed from this sale, in lieu of the tax sale certificate of purchase being sent. It is the purchaser's responsibility to verify that the tax sale certificates and redemption copies received are correct for the parcels purchased.

The tax sale certificate of purchase does not convey title to the purchaser. The titleholder of record or other interested parties retain the right to redeem within the specified period of time, depending on the type of tax sale. If the certificate remains unredeemed after this period has expired, the purchaser may begin proceedings to obtain a tax deed to the parcel. (refer to section: '90 Day Notice of Right of Redemption' Affidavit.)

## **5. Notification to Titleholder of Tax Sale**

The County Treasurer is required to notify the titleholder of record within fifteen days from the date of sale that the published item was sold at the tax sale.

## **6. Reimbursement of Tax Sale Redemption**

A redeemed tax sale will include the following:

- a. The original tax sale amount, including the \$20.00 certificate fee paid by the purchaser at the time of sale.
- b. Interest in the amount of 2% per month, beginning with the month of sale, calculated against the amount, for which the item was sold, including the amount paid for the certificate of purchase. Each fraction of a month is counted as a whole month.
- c. Subsequent tax payments paid by the purchaser and added to the amount of sale, with interest in the amount of 2% per month, beginning with the month the subsequent payment is posted to the county system. Each fraction of a month is counted as a whole month.
- d. Valid costs incurred and posted to the county system for action taken toward obtaining a tax deed. Costs not filed with the treasurer before redemption shall not be collected. Valid costs are defined in 447.13, Code of Iowa. By statute (447.12), costs cannot be filed with the county treasurer prior to the filing of the '90 Day Notice of Right of Redemption' affidavit with the county treasurer.
- e. Instructions on how to check for redemption of tax sales will be included with your certificates when you receive them. If you wish for us to retain your certificates in our office, please file an "Authorization to Hold Certificates".

Upon surrender of the tax sale certificate of a redeemed parcel, either in person or by mail, the treasurer's office will issue a check for the redemption amount. The purchaser will receive a check directly or by mail. Those certificates held in our office will receive the check as soon as the redemption has been processed.

If the original certificate of purchase has been lost or destroyed, a duplicate can be obtained from the Pottawattamie County Treasurer's office at a cost of \$20.00. In the event you have been reimbursed for redemption and the taxpayer's check does not clear the taxpayer's bank account, you will be required to return the funds to the treasurer upon notification. We will return the Tax Certificate to you and cancel the redemption. The tax sale will be reinstated as of the original sale date.

At the end of the calendar year, the county treasurer will issue a 1099-INT form to buyers and to the Internal Revenue Service of the cumulative interest paid to the buyer during the calendar year.

## **7. Payment of Subsequent Taxes**

A tax sale purchaser may pay subsequent taxes and special assessments, on the same parcel(s) on which s/he holds the tax sale certificate. Subsequent payments may be made on delinquent tax and special assessments after October 15, 2012, for the first half subsequent tax payment and April 15, 2013, for the second half subsequent tax payment. Unless the last day to pay taxes falls on a Saturday or Sunday then subsequent payments could not be paid until 14 days from the delinquent date. **These dates are subject to change per Iowa Legislature.** Special assessments, rates or charges due in future years cannot be paid until the fiscal year in which they become due.

The Treasurer will not refund the payment if the tax sale certificate holder later decides that he/she does not want a particular parcel. Failure to pay for one parcel may result in cancellation of all parcels purchased at the tax sale by investor.

## **8. Assignment of a Tax Sale Certificate**

The tax sale certificate of purchase is assigned by endorsement of the certificate, payment by the assignee of a \$100 assignment transaction fee, and forwarding the certificate to the County Treasurer for posting in the county system. An assignment is not considered valid until posted to the county system by the Treasurer. A certificate cannot be assigned to another bidder on the day of the sale or to another bidder who has redemption rights, except when the assignment is to a municipality. The tax sale certificate of purchase and/or a treasurer's deed can be set aside if it is determined that the tax sale purchaser was ineligible. The general rule is that a tax sale purchaser or assignee should never have an interest or lien in the parcel offered for sale. A bidder should consult with legal counsel to determine your right to bid and become a tax sale purchaser.

The recorded assignment will vest in the assignee all the right and title of the assignor; except, when a county-held certificate is assigned, the assignee has three years from the date the assignment is recorded by the Treasurer in the county system, instead of from the date of the tax sale, to qualify for a tax sale deed.

## **9. '90 Day Notice of Right of Redemption' Affidavit**

Service is completed when the certificate holder files the '90 Day Notice of Right of Redemption' affidavit with the County Treasurer. A redemption will not be processed unless received by the Treasurer before the close of business on the ninetieth day from the date of completed service or as allowed by law. Service must be compliant with the law in effect at the time of the tax sale.

### **(a) Regular Tax Sale:**

The 'Notice of Right of Redemption' may be served after one year and nine months from the date of the sale. **(Parcels eligible for regular tax sale have been advertised only once.)**

### **(b) Public Bidder:**

The 'Notice of Right of Redemption' may be issued after nine months from the date of sale. **(Parcels eligible for public bidder tax sale have been advertised for the second year.)**

If the certificate holder fails to file a '90 Day Notice of Right of Redemption' affidavit within three years from the date of the tax sale, the County Treasurer shall cancel the tax sale. In this instance, the tax sale purchaser is not entitled to a refund.

#### **10. Tax Sale Deed**

The tax sale certificate holder is required to return the certificate of purchase and remit the appropriated deed issuance fee and recording fee to the County Treasurer within ninety calendar days after the redemption period expires. The Treasurer is required by statute to cancel the certificate of purchase for any tax sale certificate holder who fails to comply with this paragraph.

The deed issuance fee is \$25. The recording fee is variable and will be determined at the time a deed is requested. Upon receipt of the deed issuance and recording fees, the Treasurer will record the deed with the County Recorder prior to delivering the deed to the purchaser.

If the certificate holder fails to request a tax sale deed within ninety calendar days after the redemption period expires, the County Treasurer shall cancel the tax sale. In this instance, the tax sale purchaser is not entitled to a refund.

#### **11. Erroneous Tax Sale or Assignment**

If it is determined that any item was erroneously sold, the certificate of purchase will be canceled. The certificate holder will return the certificate of purchase and the County Treasurer will reimburse the principal amount of the investment. The Treasurer will not pay interest.

If it is determined that a county held certificate was erroneously assigned, the assignment will be canceled. The certificate holder will return the certificate of purchase, and the County Treasurer will reimburse the total amount paid for the assignment. Interest from the assignment date to the date of cancellation of the assignment will not be paid.

#### **12. Abandoned parcel Law**

Iowa law permits a county or city to purchase parcels offered at the regular tax sale or to require that a certificate be assigned to the county/city if the county/city files a verified statement of abandonment with the County Treasurer (see Iowa code § 446.19A). NOTE: § 446.19A is changed effective June 1, 2005 (SF 265) to include vacant lots.

Iowa law also states that if a property has been abandoned, the court shall enter judgment awarding title to the city. The title awarded to the city shall be free and clear of any claims, liens, or encumbrances held by the respondents (see Iowa code 657A).

#### **13. Tax Sale Publication**

Copies of the official tax sale publication may be available on a CD or Email for purchase of \$50.00 from the Treasurer's office. For a CD copy of the list call (712) 328-5627 or fill out an order form. A copy of the delinquent list will be published approximately 1 to 2 weeks prior to the sale, in the Daily Nonpareil, 535 W Broadway, Ste 300, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51503. Phone number 712-328-1811.

#### **14. General Information**

This document has been prepared to provide general information and guidelines relative to tax sales, tax sale assignments, tax sale redemption's, and the issuance of tax sale deeds. It is not an all-inclusive listing of statutory requirements, procedures, or policy. It is not to be construed as a legal opinion of the statutes governing tax sales. The Pottawattamie County Treasurer reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities, which appear to be in the best interest of Pottawattamie County.

A tax sale buyer should consult with legal counsel to determine his/her legal rights and remedies and to protect his/her interest as a tax sale buyer.

If any provision of this document is determined to be contrary to law, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

This document is effective for items sold between June 18, 2012, and May 31, 2013, and all their assignments, thereof, regardless of the assignment date.

Call the Pottawattamie County Treasurer's office (712) 328-5627 to obtain additional information.

**Judy Ann Miller**  
**Pottawattamie County Treasurer**