

## **Blue Earth County's Alternative Service Methods for Tax Petitions for adjusted May 30, 2020 Deadline:**

**NOTE:** The below procedures are intended to accommodate COVID-19 Restrictions and do not represent permanent changes in County policy and procedures. The alternative methods are temporary and apply only to the adjusted May 30, 2020 filing deadline for tax petitions.

**Statutory April 30 deadline for service/filing:** Generally, Minnesota Statutes section 278.01 requires service of one copy of a tax petition upon the county auditor, one copy on the county attorney, one copy on the county treasurer, and three copies on the county assessor. The county assessor then forwards one copy of the petition to the appropriate local governmental authorities and to the applicable school board of the district in which the property is located. For all counties, the petitioner must also file the copies with proof of service, in the office of the court administrator of the district court on or **before April 30**. For taxes payable in 2020 the deadline for service/filing has been extended to **May 30, 2020**.

### **Blue Earth County's Accommodation in Response to COVID-19 Restrictions:**

With the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic still unknown, Blue Earth County issued certain directives, consistent with State policy, including the temporary closure of public service centers for a period of time to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the public facility closures, which may interfere with the service deadline of the adjusted date of **May 30, 2020**, for tax petitions, Blue Earth County has developed alternative methods for service of tax petitions as follows:

### **Acceptable Alternative Service of Tax Petitions on Blue Earth County Entities:**

Blue Earth County will accept **email filings** of tax petitions for the adjusted May 30, 2020 service/filing deadline. Blue Earth County has set up a special email for service of tax petitions, which is provided below. The tax petition email will be monitored by certain designated staff to provide for service on all required entities: (1) County Auditor/Treasurer (via Property Tax division); (2) County Assessor's Office; and (3) County Attorney's Office. The email must be sent on or before May 30, 2020 for the County to acknowledge proper service by alternative means.

Concurrently, tax petitioners choosing to email serve the County **must also serve one copy by U.S. mail postmarked by May 30, 2020** as directed below. The request for mail service in addition to email is to protect both the County and taxpayers from potential misdirection of emails or other complications that can occur with email transmission, which would interfere with the County's receipt of tax petitions.

For those Petitioners who do not have computers or are unable to serve via email, the County will accept filings by U.S. mail, without email, at the address provided below.

### **SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **Email Service:** Email a copy of the tax petition(s) and attachments to:

[taxcourt.altservice2020@blueearthcountymn.gov](mailto:taxcourt.altservice2020@blueearthcountymn.gov)

**Petitioner must also mail a copy to the address below if choosing to serve the county via email.**

2. **Mail Service:** Mail a copy of the tax petition(s) and attachments via regular U.S. mail to:

Blue Earth County  
Property and Environmental Resources  
410 South 5<sup>th</sup> St  
P.O. Box 3566  
Mankato, MN 56002

### **ADMISSION OF SERVICE:**

Upon receipt of the tax petition(s) and attachments, the Admission of Service document (page 2 of the petition) will be returned to Petitioner in same manner the Petitioner served the County, either email or mail.