

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

TOTAL FEES COLLECTED: \$82,252,735.49

TOTAL TO THE COUNTY: \$14,913,040.59

The Morris County Clerk's Office is pleased to report that the revenue generated by the County Clerk's Office in 2021 has surpassed any yearly totals this office has done to date. The prime reason why the revenue stream was so significant is because of the hard working and dedicated staff. Throughout all the shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 virus and subsequent mutations of this virus, the County Clerk's Office staff continued to work through some of the most difficult and challenging circumstances. Although not considered "essential workers", these staff members demonstrated their dedication to this office and the residents of Morris County by faithfully and diligently completing the tasks at hand.

The revenue generated by the County Clerk's Office in 2021 and credited directly to the 2022 general fund was **FOURTEEN-MILLION, NINE-HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND, and FORTY DOLLARS and FIFTY-NINE CENTS (\$14,913,040.59)**. This money will be used by the COUNTY COMMISSIONERS to off-set the County tax rate. This revenue represents an **increase of 13%** generated for tax relief over the percentage generated in 2020. Therefore, in 2021, **\$14,913,040.59**, this revenue relieves raising taxes by **1.53** tax points and contributes to alleviating the Commissioners from raising taxes and maintaining their goal of 0% tax increase for the 2022 fiscal calendar year. This office is proud to continue its reputation as being the single largest revenue generator as compared to other county offices.

This office is also pleased to report that the overall revenue collected in 2021 from all sources is **EIGHTY-TWO MILLION, TWO-HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND, SEVEN-HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS and FORTY-NINE CENTS (\$82,252,735.49)**.

Despite all the obstacles presented to the Clerk's Office during the pandemic, this office was still able to service the needs of the Morris County residents. The Clerk's Office recorded 104,111 documents; 14,190 deeds, 62,971 mortgages processed, 1,911 Notary Public commissions, 220 Trade Name certificates, 69 Veteran's Discharges, and processed 3,957 passport applications.

OFFICE PERSONNEL: This year, the County Clerk's Office was extremely proud to promote the following in-house personnel: Anna McMahon to Deputy County Clerk; Ann Bedkowski to Chief Clerk and Bernadine Rea to Assistant Chief Clerk. As a testament to their commitment to Morris County, these well deserving employees have worked for the county for a combined total of almost a century, (100 years), of dedicated service.

PASSPORT OFFICE: The Morris County Clerk's Passport Office has remained opened to serve the public safely throughout the Pandemic. This department has processed 3,957 applications in this year alone. The primary goal is to strive to be the friendly, informative while still delivering the highest quality of service to the public.

The Passport Office has transitioned to an online appointment system as of January 1, 2022. This system permits applicants to select the day and time that is convenient for them. It also provides links to all the most updated forms which may be needed.

For the convenience of working people and families, the Passport Office has extended hours on Thursday from 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

The Passport Office also offers an on-site photo service which will provide applicants with high quality photos in just a matter of minutes. All passport staff members are trained to use these high definition cameras. The photo service is also able to provide photos for visas and passports for over 50 countries, as well as digital photos.

For the young applicants, there is a "children's corner" equipped with table, chairs and a supply of activity books. This allows for the application process to proceed efficiently. Of course, there are "stickers" for all!

ELECTION DEPARTMENT: The election department continues to answer an inordinate amount of inquiries. These are primarily due to all the changes in the election laws over the past few years, especially since the implementation of the vote by mail only for the 2020 election. This office processed for the 2020 November election 374,477 ballots. The request for "Vote-By-Mail" applications (VBM) continues to increase yearly. This increase stems from an increase in mail drives from non-profit organizations and probably from COVID related issues.

AGENT ESCROW ACCOUNTS: The County Clerk's Office maintains approximately 199 active escrow accounts from various entities that conduct business with the County. The escrow balance from December 1, 2021 through and including December 31, 2021 was \$90,268.92.

INNOVATIONS TO THE COUNTY OFFICE: The Morris County Clerk is extremely pleased to announce the launch of the Morris County Mobile App. This is just another expansion of innovation and enhancements that this office has made as a hallmark of the Clerk's tenure. The App is a free online service whereby utilizing modern technology Morris County residents can access all the services offered by the County at their fingertips. The App can be downloaded for Apple devices in the App Store and for Android devices in the Google Play Store. The goal for 2022 is to expand this Mobile App to include additional services by the Notary Department.

County Business Systems continued to upgrade the staff desk areas by designing and installing plexiglass enclosures to create a "safe and secure" working environment in response to the COVID Pandemic.

The Property Fraud Alert previously made available free-of-charge to all Morris County residents has proven to be an essential asset for residents to know if someone has tried to access their property to make changes.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Although COVID put a damper on the County Clerk's usual attendance and participation in many events throughout the year, following are a few of the highlights of 2021.

January 2021 - started off with the selection of the winner of the Annual Morris County Manual Contest. The entrants submit a design which, they believe, is representative of Morris County. Three winners are selected and receive recognition for their design and the first place design will be the cover for the new manual. The winners are invited to the office where pictures are taken of the students and their designs that will be placed on the back cover of the manual.

February 2021 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This event honors the role of women and girls in the development of science and technology. In attendance at this event, with the County Clerk was, “Team Robo” a robotics team from Parsippany.

April 2021 – The County Clerk was honored to attend the renaming of New City Road in Wharton to “Chegwidden Way.”

June 2021 – The beginning of June was marked by an invitational Zoom from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, as part of the Pi Theta Omega Chapter, located in Morristown. The topic for discussion was “Local Elections Matter! Understanding the Process.”

A” Certification of Recognition” for outstanding leadership, was awarded in honor of the former Morris County Deputy Clerk, John Wojtaszek, to Isabelle Abate of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School recognizing her “Leadership and Innovation” as president of her class.

October 2021 - Morristown Fall Festival – members of the County Clerk's Office participated in this event by having a booth where residents could ask questions and receive literature regarding all the services available to them from the county.

Morris County Clerk was host to a meeting regarding security with respect to the elections and voter fraud. Representatives from the FBI, Homeland Security and the Attorney General's office were in attendance.

November 2021 – The Morris County Clerk's office participated in the annual “Interfaith Food Pantry” with staff donating food for the less fortunate residents so they could enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

Morris County Clerk, Ann Grossi, proudly presented “**Proclamations**” in 2021 to the following persons:

Mary Pearson – presented to the family and commemorating her many years of dedicated service to the Town of Netcong.

Carson Barone – in achieving the rank of “Eagle Scout.”

St. John's Ukrainian Church – commemorating their 100th Anniversary