CAMA/Administration Software

Conversion Considerations
and
Challenges

"Go Live Date"

- Some counties have had a misconception as to the nature of the "Go Live Date."
- The phrase is often used to represent the date that a new system is fully operational and available to users.
- This date, as it is being used in reference to CAMA installations, means that you have a software application that is loaded and accessible.
- It does not mean you have a CAMA system ready to produce values.
- There are still essential and critical steps and decisions to make in setting up the system, calibrating the system for your market, verifying converted data, entering additional data and other set up activities.

Data Conversion

- This is a critical step that in many instances has not been going as smoothly as would be preferred.
- Make sure you know-
  - what data will be converted,
  - when and how it will be converted,
  - what data you will have to input manually, and
  - your process for verification of converted data.
- A critical component of data conversion is the identification of which characteristics are critical for the valuation process within the CAMA system and/or within your market.
- Data clean up prior to the actual conversion can also help.

CAMA Structure

- Each CAMA system involves critical decision in the setup.
- These architectural/administrative/foundational decisions will have impacts on how it functions and on your policies and procedures.
- Make sure you have the support and information necessary to make these decisions in the best manner possible!
- This is quite possibly one of the most critical and one of the most overlooked steps!

Process Changes

- Each CAMA/Administrative system has particular capabilities and limitations.
- Knowing these is critical in that they will affect your policies and procedures.

Refinements

- It is critical to understand that setting up a new computer system and converting to annual valuations are both a process.
- It is not a case of install the software, flip a switch and you are done and have values.
- It will take adjustments and refinements over a number of years for either one (or both) of those conversions.
- (Oh, and really, the refining never ends.)

Data Integration

- Integration with current GIS and Treasurer systems is a critical step and should be part of the RFP and part of any system setup.

- A CAMA/Administrative system is really not complete until it can communicate its data.

- If you do end up with systems that cannot exchange data there are some software applications available that may help you solve that issue.

GIS

- GIS is not necessary for annual valuations but can be a critical and helpful tool.

- It is not necessary to rebuild your GIS with a parcel layer that has all of the fields of the CAMA system.

- As long as there is a common element, such as the parcel identification number, which there should be in any decent CAMA system, the data can be linked and used in analysis, etc.

Methodology, Policies, Procedures and Other Considerations

- Your decisions around your methodology for valuations, your CAMA/Administrative software and your offices Policies and Procedures are all intricately intertwined.

- Understanding how they affect each other is critical to smooth implementations and/or conversions.

- Make sure that the CAMA software and other decisions you make are compatible with or support the methodologies that you plan to utilize.

Thank You