

Carnegie hires agency to track down unpaid taxes

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Carnegie leaders have turned to a private company to help recoup taxes owed to the borough.

Borough leaders retained TurnKey Taxes, based in McCandless, to try to collect delinquent business privilege taxes and earned income taxes.

When letters were sent out more than a week ago, the borough office received a number of calls from residents asking if the notices were legitimate.

“Some people thought it wasn't official,” borough manager Steve Beuter said.

For now, TurnKey Taxes will focus on delinquent business privilege taxes from 2013-2015.

Beuter said the company also will search for those who owe earned income taxes.

The borough still collects the taxes and does the initial mailings. The borough will pay TurnKey Taxes 20 percent of what it collects in delinquent taxes.

TurnKey Taxes' website states that the company analyzes the current and historical records to identify missing taxpayers and payments and claims to have identified missing revenue for all of its clients.

Mark Schuster, founder and chief operating officer of TurnKey Taxes said the premise of the company is a web app that enables local government to raise tax revenue without raising taxes.

“It's all data driven. We take all the existing records and make sure they are accurate,” Schuster said. “It's all about accuracy.”

He said Carnegie Borough is taking the right steps by working to ensure accurate records.

“We love partnering with communities who care about the taxpayers,” he said. “My job is to make sure the information is correct.”

The company operates on a Cloud-base system that enables the borough to look at the records together with Schuster.

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