

# A VIEW OF THE FALLS

## Office of the Mayor - Richard B. Milne

April 1, 2009

Dear Friends;

The Village Board of Trustees and village staff have recently completed a series of budget meetings to develop the Village Budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. These meetings were all posted and advertised and as always (open to the public).

The Village Trustees try to engage our village staff and departments for input and also welcome comments from the community as each year we strive to provide a sensible budget.

This budget is not unlike any other year. We review every single line item, discuss whether or not the line item is necessary and that it is funded properly. This funding may go up or down in any given year, but each line is indeed reviewed. We then review future needs as well; this is where (in my opinion) the review becomes more difficult. It is our duty to review all needs and try to plan for the future and at the same time tax and spend wisely.

Our budget is now complete; it will be adopted in its current form on April 6, 2009 at 6:30 PM. There will be a brief public hearing to pass this budget legally. We are reluctantly happy with this budget as we are able to announce that there will be a zero percent increase to taxes in both the general budget and to our sewer rates. I stress that we are reluctantly happy with the budget because this budget does not provide for appropriate monies to be put into capital reserve lines. In my opinion and in the opinions of the trustees and staff, this is a concerning decision to make. The Village Board of Trustees needs to plan for the future and without capital reserves our only option for necessary purchases and repairs in many cases is to borrow. While this is sometimes a good practice, like in our own homes, too much borrowing of funds is not appropriate. Funding for these capital reserve lines will need to be reviewed moving forward.

We do however understand that the current economic climate, loss of jobs locally and tax pressures other than village are a concern to many. Living in New York State and the tax pressures we all feel is difficult. This does not mean though, that we stop doing business, stop moving forward and let our village community fall apart. In these difficult economic times it is even more important to try to make necessary and needed improvements to village infrastructure. It is even more important to make improvements to village codes, zoning and development plans. It is even more important to not fall further behind.

The Village of Honeoye Falls is not without our share of struggles, we are not without or share of empty buildings or storefronts and we are not without our share of infrastructure needs. But we are also working to improve all those areas mentioned and I believe we have the support of many residents and business owners.

My office is working directly with our local Senator, Assemblyman and Congressman requesting funding support for many important projects including a major sewer line upgrade that will positively affect potential economic development, roadway and parking lot resurfacing projects, funding for our sewer treatment upgrade (green project), and funding for an emergency services study. Certainly, there is no funding that is guaranteed, but we are making every effort to gain funding and I believe the Village of Honeoye Falls has support. We are in a difficult economic time, but together our Village Community will forge ahead.

Sincere Regards,  
Richard B. Milne  
Mayor, Village of Honeoye Falls