

# A VIEW OF THE FALLS

## Office of the Mayor - Richard B. Milne

April 28, 2010

Dear Residents;

As follow up to the recently passed village budget as well as articles written in both the Sentinel newspaper and Democrat & Chronicle, I feel it is important to reiterate some of the points we, as a Village Board of Trustees, have tried to make very clear and very open. We did not come to a decision to raise our tax rate by \$ .30/1000 overnight. This decision came after no less than four budget review meetings that were all advertised and open to the public. We also did publicize and hold a public hearing before voting on the final budget on April 14th. We sent a fairly detailed mailer to all Village homes and businesses and did our best to get the word out and solicit feed-back. We did have feed back, most positive and some negative, but those who asked questions, I believe, felt good about the answers they received.

It's important to note that there were cuts made to budget lines and certainly there were requested budget dollars from our departments that were cut back. There were also costs that went up and we tried very hard to keep this to a minimum. When all was said and done, our general budget was up just over \$5,000.00.

What may not be clear are the capital expenses we are trying to put away money (savings) for. We have a very active capital expense program, we are working very hard to put away funding so that we don't continually have to finance 100% of our capital expense items. The less amount of money we have to borrow, generally the better off we are. Just like at home, we need to try to pay up front when possible so we don't have to borrow for all. The Village of Honeoye Falls, like many communities, are trying to turn equipment around in a timely fashion so that we don't overpay for expensive maintenance on old or outdated equipment. Sometimes this works well, but often like in recent years, we just can't put away enough to keep up. Thus, our expenses actually go up because of high maintenance costs.

This is only a small portion of the whole picture. Our offices are open, the budget and capital plan are public information. If you have strong concerns, I ask you to contact me; I will return your call or email. I am happy to speak to you about how the Village is run, about the budget and about future plans. We live in a great community, we are still (and will remain) a cost effective and cost controlled community. We are financially sound, our budget is in control as is spending and we remain a healthy community. We have a lot of positive things happening and at the same time a lot of hard work ahead of us.

Get involved, ask questions and lets continue to work together to keep our community strong.

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