

A VIEW OF THE FALLS

Office of the Mayor - Richard B. Milne

December 16, 2010

Dear Friends;

As reported prior I have been asked to serve on the NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors) Task Force on Mandate Relief. For the past three months, along with NYCOM staff and 20 other mayors from across New York State we have developed a plan and report to provide to Governor Elect Cuomo and his staff that we feel is of vital importance to the fiscal health and economic future of New York State.

While one of Governor Elect Cuomo's campaign platforms was creating a 2% property tax cap, it has also been indicated that the relief of unfunded mandates is important as well. The relief of unfunded mandates prior to a 2% tax cap being put into effect is of paramount importance because without this relief and the institution of the tax cap, communities across the state will be in dire straights financially. Projected growth in pension and health insurance costs alone will exceed the 2% tax cap by five times in its first two years.

The report attached is very detailed and I urge you to review it thoroughly. Certainly there are portions that may not affect Honeoye Falls as much as a larger Village or City, but many of these points are equally important to our villages' fiscal health and well being. As mayors, we live in our community and pay taxes just like our residents and business owners. We do not want to raise taxes, but because of the continued health care and pension costs escalating and because of the multitude of mandates forced upon our communities we often have no choice. The alternative is layoffs or the elimination of necessary services.

In this report, we call for a temporary freeze of Public Sector Wages across NY State for a least one year. We call for the requirement of local government employees and retirees to contribute to the cost of Health Insurance and the restructuring of pension cost-sharing and benefits of public and municipal employees. These are only a few of the important portions of the report.

I urge you to read the report in detail, I urge you to contact your local Assembly person and Senator and I urge you to contact our newly elected governor and his staff and ask that they positively act on these concerns for the future well being of our state and of our community. The state truly is in a fiscal crisis and this needs to be acted upon now. As a group, NYCOM pledges to work with Governor Elect Cuomo and his staff for the betterment of our state. The time to act is now, the time for change is now.



This report is also on the NYCOM Web Site (www.NYCOM.org) as well as the Village of Honeoye Falls web site (www.villageofhoneoyefalls.org).

Best regards,
Rick Milne
Mayor, Village of Honeoye Falls