

A VIEW OF THE FALLS

Office of the Mayor - Richard B. Milne

March 24, 2014

Dear Community,

The Village Board of Trustees, along with village staff, has met to review the 2014-2015 proposed budget. After full budget review and discussion at meetings scheduled and open to the public, the Village Board of Trustees are happy to announce that the budget is completed and will be voted on at a public hearing scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6:00 PM. The budget is expected to be approved and there will be no tax rate increase and sewer rental charges will remain flat as well. The current tax rate of \$2.05/1000 of assessed value will remain the same within our new budget for 2014-2015.

As all are aware, Governor Cuomo and his staff have been very active in publicizing the fact that New York State needs to lower property taxes and that some NYS counties are among the highest tax rates in the nation. I feel strongly that Village Mayors, Town Supervisors and County Executives across the state work very hard to keep tax rates flat. I have yet to meet an elected official from our area that indicated he/she wants to increase taxes. However, unfunded mandates, pension costs and the general cost of doing business continue to escalate. Even where we may see rates for pension or health care lower slightly, we are still paying much higher rates than we did 5-10 years ago.

Furthermore, the Governor continues to stress that we have too much government in NY State and that consolidations need to move forward to eliminate excessive taxing. Local governments are the grass roots of support for our New York State residents. Local government generally get the first call from residents and needs to explain why the side-walks are or are not being plowed; local government has to explain why roads are or are not being paved or why sewer lines need to be updated. It makes more sense for New York State to support efforts of local governments and to work with local governments to support shared services efforts and tax savings measures and not force consolidations which local residents generally have not supported or wanted.

The Village of Honeoye Falls has a tax rate of \$2.05/1000 of assessed value. This brings \$353,711.00 to our bottom line of a total general budget of \$1,947,673.00 The balance of the budget is supported via contract services with other municipalities for fire/ambulance service as well as the county tax sharing program, ambulance service charges (3rd party billing), county contract work and franchise fees. These will all be detailed in a future article and mailing to our residents.

In reviewing our budget, the following numbers provide data for what tax increases from the Village would actually provide which to most residents are surprisingly small.

- ~ 1% Increase to \$2.07/1000 would provide the Village \$3,450.00
- ~ 2% Increase to \$2.09/1000 would provide the Village \$6,901.00
- ~ 3% Increase to \$2.11/1000 would provide the Village \$10,352.00
- ~ 4% Increase to \$2.13/1000 would provide the Village \$13,803.00
- ~ 5% Increase to \$2.15/1000 would provide the Village \$17,254.00

While the Village of Honeoye Falls could certainly use more funding for programs and services requested and desired by the bulk of our residents, the small amount of gain through the tax increase numbers above and in light of the proposed tax freeze program publicized by the Governor, we have opted to continue to make the effort we do each and every year for the benefit of our residents.

Thank You
Rick Milne
Mayor, Village of Honeoye Falls