

THE TAX ATTACK

Chapter XII

Response to the renewal of the Village 3-mill operating levy was positive. Almost 62% of Village voters favored the continuation of that critical source of operating income. While the revenues that the renewal will provide are critical, they will not resolve the two to five year cash flow shortfall anticipated by Council. Arguably, that shortfall is entirely the result of needed repairs and replacements to roads and culverts.

In November, Council addressed ways in which to reduce costs and relieve the projected shortfall. We should all watch carefully their decisions, as they certainly will impact residents either in additional individual costs or reduced services. Remember the Village is prohibited by statute from incurring a deficit.

In reflecting on the recent election, it was interesting to note that almost 40% of those who chose to vote opposed the operating levy renewal. While it is clearly the right of every citizen to vote their conscience on any ballot issue, it is striking that among so many individuals few, if any, choose to communicate with Council or our Village professionals their concerns about Village operations. We always say that every citizen should vote, but when so many people believe an issue is unworthy, there should be some constructive response to offer guidance regarding (in this case) Village operations. It's likely that no matter what adjustments are made by Council, either increasing revenues from Villagers or reducing services to them, there will be unhappiness among the dissenters.

Unhappiness alone will not create change. Each of us needs to voice our constructive opinions regarding issues of concern. It's quite understandable that in adverse economic times no one wants to pay more for government. But there is a cost to good government and good service and we must be realistic and be prepared to pay for the service we desire.

Please take the time to share your opinions with members of Council and the Finance Committee regarding taxes and services. Only with your informed input can our leadership be expected to satisfy the needs of our citizens.

Bob Reitman
Village Tax Administrator