

Village of Union Springs Budget Message

The 2015-2016 Village of Union Springs Proposed Budget was prepared at meetings held on March 20th, April 8th, April 14th. The budget is on file at the Clerk's Office and is available for public view. The Board made final approval of the budget at the April 28th, 2015 village board meeting. The budget consists of several funds: The General Fund, the Water Fund, and the Sewer Fund. These funds are managed according to the accounting standards set by the New York State Comptroller's Office.

The General Fund Budget: The Assessment will be in effect for the 2015-2016 Village budget. The new Village assessment shows a total assessed value of \$56,223,278. which is an increase of \$465,647.00 over last year's total. The General Fund appropriations of \$649,966. include a \$236,450. tax levy at a tax rate of \$4.205553 per \$1,000 of assessed value which represents a .017138% increase over last year's budget. The 2014-2015 tax rate was \$4.19 per 1,000 of assessed value. Appropriations in the General Fund include an estimated \$20,000 in making energy efficient repairs to the Village Office. The Mayor and the Board of Trustees have worked very hard to ensure property owners receive a good value for their property taxes without sacrificing a high level of services.

A Village property assessed at \$100,000 will have a tax bill of \$420.56. Our unreserved fund balance will be used to keep the tax levy rate from exceeding the mandated 2% tax cap or allowable tax rate growth of 1.68% (whichever is less). The Village will use \$84,041 of the unexpended fund balance to balance the 2015-2016 budget. The Village Board has now moved from a "free" boat launch to \$5.00 per boat launched. This will help to defray some of the expense associated with maintaining the launch. It will be necessary for the Village to find ways to generate revenues from Village assets while constantly looking for opportunities for cost containment. The Gov. Cuomo calls on local governments to look at shared services and consolidation.

The Water Fund Budget is entirely financed by water user fees and charges. This fund is now in sound condition with no immediate need for a rate increase in 2015. The appropriations call for a payoff of two USDA financed loans with a rate of 6.38%. Also Request for Proposal to migrate to an automated radio read water meter reading system. New system will reduce the additional manpower required to manually record meter readings. Cost savings in office personnel will be realized.

The Sewer Fund Budget is entirely financed by sewer user fees and charges. The Village was approved for a low interest loan of up to a \$1.2 million dollar loan for mandated improvements in the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This capital improvement project is now in the construction phase and should be completed by Summer 2015. Sewer rents are used to pay for repairs and expansions to the system. Also in late 2014 the Village hired a Wastewater Operator Trainee in preparation of anticipated retirement of core staff in the next five years or less.

Thank you to our hard working Trustees and village employees who show their dedication day in and day out to make our community a wonderful place to live, play and work.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ed Trufant
Village of Union Springs