

Supervisor's Message – October 2012

From the Desk of Lima Supervisor Pete Yendell

On November 1st the Town Board will be presented with the 2013 budget for their approval. This budget falls below the Property Tax Cap of 2%. As you may know the tax cap was enacted to limit the growth of annual property taxes to 2% or the rate of inflation however the actual amount of a municipality's tax cap is determined by the New York State Comptroller. The Comptroller adjusts the cap using three factors in addition to allowable levy growth factor of 2%.

The Town Board held a budget workshop where we went through the proposed budget line by line. We reviewed all anticipated revenues against proposed expenses and budget history of those expenses over the last 3 years. The largest increases in anticipated expenses were in the Highway accounts. The highway superintendent carefully reviewed his road maintenance projects for 2013 to limit these increases however he anticipates large increases in needed materials.

All property owners pay for town-wide services through the town wide-tax that will remain flat for 2013. The property owners in the town, outside the village also pay for town services and fire service through the town tax. Property owners in South Lima have a fire contract with the Lakeville Fire Department. As a result of this contract they pay more for fire service.

Listed below are the tax rates paid for 2012 and the projected rates, per \$1000.00 dollars of assessed value for 2013 for the 3 different areas noted above. These numbers have been rounded. The total assessed values for the Town went up 2.8 million dollars, from \$229,128,944.00 to 231,962,201.00.

	2012	2013
Townwide	\$2.99	\$2.99
Town Outside Village	\$4.60	\$4.61
Fire Tax	\$.63	\$.63
	=====	=====
Total	\$ 5.23	\$ 5.24
Town Outside South	\$4.60	\$ 4.61
Lima	\$.99	\$.96
	=====	=====
	\$5.59	\$ 5.57

Solar Energy: As you may know we installed solar panels on the Highway Garage in 2011. John Sempowski, chairman of the Green Energy Committee has been taking the efficiency of the system. Below is his latest report on the savings the solar panels have generated for the town. We thank John and the committee members for their participation in this project.

An updated review of National Grid Billing from November 2010 through July 2012. The solar array went online late October 2011. The data indicates the following:

Average monthly energy use/cost 11 months prior to installation

kWh = 1532 @ \$108

Average monthly energy use/cost 10 months post installation

kWh = 428 @ \$26

To date, the solar array overall has generated 75% of the Town garage's power use. Since April of 2012 it, has generated over 100% of the power used and produced a 2180 kWh credit.

This current credit is equivalent to 11/4 months of historic average use and will offset electrical use once winter is upon us.

Check out all the Town, Village and County Board of Supervisors news at our web site, lima-ny.org.