



RICHARD POTIKER
Supervisor

SHERMAN HAMEL
Deputy--Supervisor

DONNA HAMEL
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

JOHN ROCK
Supt. of Highways

HOWARD NEWTON
Councilman

GEORGE SEYMOUR
Councilman

MARTIN (MIKE) PERROTTE
Councilman

BARRY WHITE
Councilman

TOWN OF SCHUYLER FALLS

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Dear Town Residence

This year in preparation for the 2020 Budget we have worked hard to be sure that any budget increases are necessary and to decrease where it helps to save money without creating shortfalls or cutting services. After last year's large Highway Department's tax increase to balance the Highway budget it was determined that we would not do the same thing for the general budget. Because of that the 2020 budget includes a 30-cent increase in the tax rate which represents a \$30.00 increase on a \$100,000.00 home. This increase is not the result of a higher budget but rather a decrease in the use of the unallocated fund balance. As the high unallocated fund balance comes down the Board can gradually increase the tax rate with the goal of a future balanced budget while allocating fund balance money for infrastructure planning as well as Town asset maintenance and improvements. It would have been easy for the Town Board to kick this can down the road another year. The decision to raise the tax rate slowly while an unallocated fund remains is the right thing to do. Unless there are added revenues or spending cuts the return to a balanced budget will always be inevitable. Based on our new fund balance policy the board will allocate some of the remaining funds for future projects and equipment purchases reducing the need for borrowing. As recommended by the NYS Comptroller's office the use of those funds for day to day operations is not advised. With host fees coming in to the Town from Casella at the County landfill Schuyler falls will always have a lower than average tax rate while providing residence the service they deserve. The Town is in the process of putting together a committee to review and update the Town's zoning and to make recommended changes. The unallocated fund policy is in place and efforts to follow that policy will be the responsibility of the future Supervisor and Town Board.

Respectfully

Richard Potiker – Supervisor