

## **Protect the Village of Hilton – A Message from Mayor Joe Lee**

As you may be aware in the Governor's Executive Budget there is a proposal mandating every NYS County to prepare a consolidation plan, to include new shared services in order to lower the property taxes in New York. In simple terms, this plan could result in dissolution of the Village of Hilton and placed for a vote on the ballot for the November 2017 election. The Governor blames local municipalities for the high taxes. What the Governor has failed to realize is the Monroe County Municipalities have been sharing services for decades! We are the government closest to the people, the most responsive and responsible to our resident's needs.

The Village of Hilton is always looking for more ways to save money and increase efficiencies. We have never exceeded the tax cap, the Village Board never considered adopting a resolution to go above the tax cap. My administration and budget team work very hard each year to deliver a balanced budget that provides the most services to the residents at the lowest cost possible. I am very proud to say our tax rate is \$2.58 per thousand. The average home is assessed for \$125,000, so the average bill is \$322.50, which includes refuse/recycling. To hire an outside refuse hauler would cost more than the average Village tax, also included are: Building Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire Marshall, Park Maintenance, Shade Trees, Street Cleaning, Street/Sidewalk/Storm Water Maintenance, Snow Removal including all sidewalks, Leaf/Brush collection, Zoning Board services and a Community Center. The Village also provides water and sewer services.

The Village is also debt free, which allows us to pay cash for all of our equipment and expenses. I cannot imagine a more efficient government.

In 2012, the Village of Hilton, Town of Parma, Hilton-Parma Fire District and Hilton Central School District constructed a shared salt facility, which has saved each entity thousands of dollars. The school district constructed a new fuel island in 2014. This eliminated the need for the above mentioned municipalities to construct and maintain their own fuel stations. We belong to a self-insured workers compensation group, which, if we have a good safety year, we are refunded a portion of our insurance premium. The Village has always received a substantial refund.

These are just a few examples of what the Village of Hilton does to share services. I am doing everything possible to work with our legislators to have this removed from the Governor's budget and protect your services!

If you would like to express your views on the Governor's "Consolidation Plan" you can contact our local representatives Senator Joseph Robach at 585-225-3650 or Assemblyman Peter Lawrence – 585-225-4190.

Mayor Joseph Lee