

Town of Gaines

A NEW YEAR UPON US

Volume 1 Issue 2

January 2015

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From Your Supervisor....

A New Year is upon us and as your Town Supervisor my feet are firmly planted on the ground remembering that I was elected by the people for the people. I am here to serve, represent, and protect our town and promise to continue to do so, working hard to

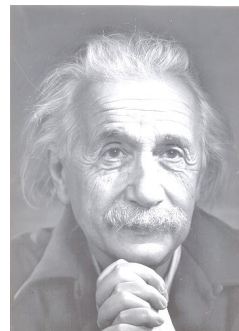
assure that your tax dollars are spent wisely and you have a transparent government. The coffee pot is brewing at the Town Hall just for you. Please stop in for I am always available to answer any of your questions and concerns or simply listen.



What happened to our Town Taxes?

You might feel like you are in the twilight zone but we did lower our budget and yes our town taxes went down; but your tax bill shows an increase.

Why??? Well the magic word of the day is "tax levy".



What is a Tax Levy?

Einstein would even have trouble explaining this one but.....

The Town of Gaines had to raise \$1267.00 more in property tax in 2015, or +.02%. The good news is that Taxable Assessed Value increased by over \$2M. So, even though we are collecting more in tax, it is being spread over a larger tax base, which allowed the tax rate to be lowered by 3.6%. While most are likely to see a tax decrease, those whose valuation increased in 2014 are likely to see an increase in their tax bill.

Another factor impacting what we raise through property tax is non property tax revenue, like sales tax and mortgage tax revenue from the county, and state aid. These amounts are estimated annually and offset what we must raise through property taxes to support the services we provide to our residents. For 2015, these non-tax revenues decreased, which resulted in a larger tax levy.

For more information you may visit http://www.schodack.org/docs/LevyxTax_Rate.pdf

Meeting Notices!!

All Town Board Meetings come January will begin at 7:00p.m. It is our hope that with this time change more people will be able to attend our Town Meetings.

Our First January meeting will be our Organizational Meeting on January 13th! Hope to see you there!

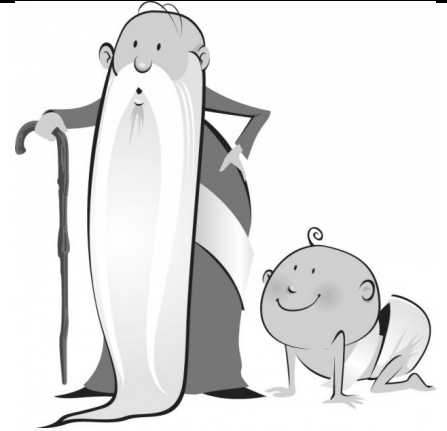
OUT WITH THE OLD...

The water levies are now as they should be; principal and interest are what we pay on our taxes – no more, no less. The loans to build our water districts are similar to a mortgage. The debt is divided by the number of consumers on an annual basis and that is our water levy. Water district No. 4 has been paid off; Water districts No. 2 and No. 3 has each had just under \$30,000 paid on their principals.

The budget has been passed and as recommended by the State Controllers office a fuel management system has been approved and will be in place to secure and better monitor the fuel we use at the town highway garage



Water districts 5, 6, 7 and 9 will have monies paid on the principal as the payments come due. These districts will see either an elimination of the water levy or a decrease in your water levy cost. Water District 8 and 10 were under levied so the payments on your water levy will increase.



In with the new...

- We have a new water Billing clerk, Devin Rogers, Maureen Kline is our new Court Clerk and filling in for Codes Enforcement is Dan Strong.
- Your water usage is being properly monitored while we continue our inquiry as to where 60 million gallons of water or \$250,000 has gone.
- We have implemented new stringent audit controls and procedures.
- We continue to improve the oversight of the financial matters at the town.

Blast from the past...

In a book recovered from 54 Augustine St. Rochester, NY titled "The Ridge Ontario's Blossom Country" by Arch Merrill reprinted in 1944 these words were written. "Gaines now is just another hamlet that the traveler hardly notices as he whizzes by. But once she was "the Queen of the Ridge." All the Stagecoaches stopped there, for Gaines had ten taverns and was the most important town between Rochester and Lewiston."

Gaines is on its' way to shine once again..



