

OPEN LETTER TO ALL VILLAGE RESIDENTS

From Al Donahue, Mayor

Underscoring the Village's need to borrow, via bonding, to repair our deterioration infrastructure is the Health Department's issuance of a citation regarding the long-ignored deficiencies of our Sewer Plant. On November 24, 2009 Village Officials, Engineer, and Attorney must appear for a hearing in New Rochelle to address, respond and hopefully satisfy the Health Department concerns without the imposition of fines and or sanctions. Without the necessary funds available, we have no other option by to incur debt in order to come into compliance.

The origin of lack of funds dates back to 6/10/02 when the prior administration signed the PILOT contract. This contract was drafted to conceal the true impact of agreement by the gimmick of front-end-load, delaying the disastrous tax increase until 2006. However, even at threat date a superficial understating of the terms would have disclosed the eventual result which is: **your tax rate increase 2002-present - 362%**.

Entergy tax reductions 2002-present 26% DECREASE. Although it is the loss of tax revenue from Entergy (\$600,000 per year) that has triggered the need to borrow, Entergy is not required to contribute to the repayment of the debt but you will experience an additional 15% + increase in your taxes. The financial damage to the village tax structure was predictable on 6/10/02.

While the prior administration should have been and most likely was aware of what was to come, it continued to spend as if the tax structure was in tact and made no provision to deal with the income crunch that was soon to come. Listed here are some of the projects too costly to pursue at the time and should have been delayed or eliminated.

1.	Health benefits for 5 part time Board Members 2002-2009		\$319,181.00
2.	Master Plan- 2004		80,316.40
3.	Planner – 2005		22,752.00
4.	Black top one block of Westchester Ave 2004-2005		198,636.00
5.	New Parking lot along Tate Avenue		91,754.80
6.	Cell phone for Mayor O'Neill 3-years	Approx.	5,400.00
7.	Clean-up C.K. Trucking illegal dumping per order of D.E.C. 2007	Approx	25,000.00
8.	Painting fiber glass panels, Pavilion roof – 2006		138,277.35
9.	Sidewalks, one block Westchester Avenue		15,000.00
10.	Engineer's fees (above \$55,000.00 contract year salary) Supervise paving and new parking lot 2004-2005	Approx	100,000.00
11.	Confidential agreement by Board to not fully tax new Entergy construction 2005-2009 (Entergy agree to increase in April 2009 which resulted in \$53,000 tax increase)	Approx	159,000.00
12.	Tennis court revamp -2006		17,990.00
	TOTAL		\$1,173,307.55

As you can see this is a substantial sum for a village to be without funds for day-to-day maintenance. Sadly, these items all seem to be pet projects or projects extended to favored providers or vendors. Why there was any reduction in Entergy's new construction, especially when it was not asked for, is open to speculation. None of these items were essential for Village operations. During this prior nothing was done to maintain the Sewer Plane, hence the Health Department citation.

The search for Village Administrator continues, hopefully to end soon.

Lastly, the auditors from the State Comptroller's Office have completed their fieldwork. When their final report is issued, we shall inform you of their findings and recommendations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'al', positioned between the closing salutation and the typed name.

Al Donahue
Mayor