



PHONE (262) 783-2525
FAX (262) 783-2522

Kayla J. Chadwick, Village Administrator

September 8, 2014

It has been brought to my attention that some miscommunication and misunderstanding is being spread around the community regarding the Village's proposed 2015 budget and potential tax increase. The truth is, yes, I am proposing an increase in the Village's tax rate, primarily to cover the increase in the Village's debt service. A portion of the increase will be also used to fund an additional police officer - an initiative that has long been discussed and supported by the Village Board and residents alike. Additionally, a portion of the increase will be used to establish funding for the replacement of the Village's failing street infrastructure.

The fact is that the Village has been using over \$100,000 annually from our savings accounts since 2006 to pay for debt. This decision was made in order to mitigate the financial impact on the homeowner in the recession. We simply do not have the money to continue to pay for this obligation from savings any longer. The truth is also that since 2008, the Village has increased the tax rate only 0.9%, while in this same period in time, other taxing entities such as Hamilton School District, have increased their tax rate (which affects most Butler properties) 22%. I spent over an hour discussing this plan at a recent Village Board meeting, with only 5 people in attendance.

The 'cost of doing business' has increased steadily in the last nine years, and the Village of Butler has not asked residents to pay for those increases. Additionally, the financial aid we receive from the State has been substantially reduced. We have reduced spending, found more efficient means of providing services, and have eliminated a few staff positions. After six years of cuts and reductions, the Village of Butler cannot continue to provide the quality services that residents expect without asking for residents to pay for the 'cost of doing business' in 2015. What my plan asks for is on average \$15.92 more per month, per property owner, to pay for the quality services you receive every day. This increase will ensure the collection of garbage, plowing of streets, 24-hour police and fire services, park maintenance, and general administration, among many others.

With that being said, I pose to you, Butler residents and business owners, two challenges; one, come visit me at Village Hall or schedule a time to sit down with me so I can review the whole picture of the Village's financial standing, and my proposed budget plan – let's stop with the rumors, the half-truths, and fragmented information – hear the facts and truth from the source, me.

Second, I challenge you all to attend Village Board meetings regularly. The Board meets every first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm at Village Hall. Meeting notices are posted online at www.butlerwi.gov and at Village Hall, the Library, and the Post Office. Attend a meeting to find out firsthand the information provided about this plan and every other decision made by the Village Board of Trustees, and not rely on rumors and second hand information to inform you.

The proposed plan is just that, proposed. Nothing is set in stone until I have presented my recommended 2015 budget to the Village Board and they adopted it. Though this plan has not been finalized yet, it is what, in my professional opinion, is in the best interest of the residents of the Village of Butler. It is my personal and professional mission to leave the Village of Butler in a better condition than when I arrived. The cornerstone to achieving this mission is to address

the Village's financial health. Though this plan may be scary, it's the true picture of what it costs to operate the Village of Butler.

I hope you take it upon yourself to become informed about this topic and all other issues coming from Village Hall, and not let somebody else paint the picture for you. I look forward to hearing from and meeting with all of you to outline my plan and vision for this community. If you wish to meet with me or have any questions/comments, please feel free to contact me at kchadwick@butlerwi.gov or at 262-783-2525 ext: 1222.

Respectfully,

Kayla Chadwick
Village Administrator/Clerk