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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO NEW HARTFORD RESIDENTS FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

Since taking office in January of 2010 I have consolidated many departments within the Town. The result of this effort has been a reduction in Town expenditures of over \$1.3 million for the 2011 tax year and an 8% tax rate reduction. We are continuing to seek advantages and efficiencies through combining and consolidating departments in an effort to again cut your tax rates. We will however, continue to maintain the level of services, which our residents are entitled to. In this effort to reduce expenditures the Town Board and I are proposing another consolidation of Town services.

On November 8th New Hartford residents will be given the opportunity to vote on **Proposition #1**. The purpose of **Proposition # 1** is the consolidation of the tax collecting function. Passage of **Proposition # 1** will eliminate the office of Receiver of Taxes and integrate this function into the Town Clerk's office.

The Town Board has unanimously voted to move forward with this process, which requires a public referendum in order to implement. There are several reasons why the board has proceeded with this project. The following are some of the issues, which were considered by the board in making this decision:

1. The current Receiver of Taxes, Hilarie Elefante, is retiring after thirty years of service. As this is an election year for this position and as the current receiver is no longer running it was felt to be an opportune time to look at consolidation.
2. In order to consolidate this office it needs to be done this year. Under State law elimination of the tax collector position can only occur at the end of the official's term of office, which is this year. If the process were not put forward this year then the Town would have to wait another four year before the proposition could be brought up again.
3. By consolidating these two offices it will save the Town approximately \$50,000 a year. This amounts to over \$200,000 over the next four years.
4. For the majority of Town taxpayers the new system will not mean any changes in how they pay their taxes. For those that pay their taxes through a mortgage escrow account there will be absolutely no change at all and these people represent over half of the taxpayers. Those of you that mail in your tax payments the only change will be the address of where it should go. And, for those taxpayers that wish to pay at Butler Hall we will still be able to accommodate you.
5. This new system will bring some advantages to our taxpayers such as;
 - a. The ability to pay your taxes online, through the Town website.
 - b. The ability to pay your taxes with the use of a credit or bank debit card.
 - c. Extended service hours for routine matters. The Clerk's office is open 5 days a week, 7 hours a day, 52 weeks a year.

So please vote November 8th.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Tyksinski, Town Supervisor