

Conversation with the Mayor March 5, 2007

Vicky Daly

Talking About Money and Other Intereseting Things

Five meetings after our first on January 16, Palmyra's Village Board has a budget to present to its residents on Monday, March 19th at the Public Hearing. The meeting will be at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall. Our regular Village Board meeting will follow. The bottom line, what you really want to know, is where do we stand? What will be the tax rate? \$12.70 per thousand, exactly what it was last year. Water and sewer rates also remain the same.

What is my chief emotion in regard to this outcome? Relief. I have told you in the past that this is my least favorite task but the one that is most basic to the welfare of the Village. We, the members of the Village Board, are aware of our tax rate. We all live in the Village and pay exactly the same rate everyone else does. We also know the costs of doing business to repay the indebtedness that has been incurred to maintain streets and sidewalks, the cost to maintain the light poles, to plow streets, to support the Fire Department and Police Department, to provide water and sewer service to the community.

As we prepare the budget each year, we scrutinize requests, revenues and expenditures over which we have no control - pensions, workers' comp, cost of gasoline and asphalt for street work. We attempt to be frugal, spending no more than necessary but maintaining services. Our ability to do that is dependent in large part on the planning skills and cooperation of our department heads. We try, also, to be sure that we have left sufficient monies in the contingency line that, should there be an unexpected expense, we won't be cut short. Too much? Too little? It is an educated guess. The money that is not spent this year will create the fund balance to mitigate next year's tax levy. Copies of the budget are available in the Village Clerk's office. Pick one up and come to the meeting on the 19th. You will be welcome.

As you run errands around the community you will see very large collection boxes in Town and Village Halls in both Macedon and Palmyra and at Breen's IGA, Palmyra. The Pal-Mac Rotary Interact Club is asking your help in supporting an organization in Pittsford called Saint's Place by collecting basic household items - paper products, powdered cleanser, light bulbs, trash bags, etc. Saint's Place, in turn, makes these items available to refugee families in our area. The collection drive will run through the end of March, so please consider adding an item or two to your own shopping list to put in the box to help our Interact students help Saint's Place.

Plans are underway for Palmyra's hosting of the Canal Schooner *Lois McClure* August 11 and 12. We are excited about being chosen for its visit and want to make the ship's time here memorable for its crew and for our community. For an advance look at the *Lois McClure*, check her out on line by googling *Schooner Lois McClure*. You will find her history and the plans for her 100 day 1000 mile voyage on the canal this summer. You will also be able to take a virtual tour of this 88 foot replica of an 1862 canal schooner.