

## Tax Relief Task Force

**GOAL:** to recommend to the Village Board actionable ideas that will result in lowering the tax rate village owners pay to sustain the village. The task force itself has no authority to implement change; its function is strictly advisory.

*Objectives and Action Plans*, to include, but not limited to the following:

1. Review sources of village funding—including property taxes, sales tax, fees, grants and other non-tax revenue.
  - A. Objective: identify additional funding sources that could result in reduced tax levy
  - B. Suggested Actions: Consult other municipalities (villages) for comparative funding sources; confer with grant writers for additional grant opportunities.
2. Review how and where village monies are spent
  - A. Objective: identify opportunities to reduce spending along with consequences and future departmental liabilities of doing so.
  - B. Suggested Actions: Department heads will be asked to educate the task force on how departmental money is spent, changes in spending over the past 5 years, and predicted future spending. Department heads will be asked to describe required cuts if spending were cut by a given percentage.
3. Review taxes, fees, spending to assure those village monies are not being used to unknowingly subsidize non-municipal programs and entities.
  - A. Objective: to assure that expenses incurred by the village are benefitting village residents and that fee structures are fair for both the user of the benefit and the village at large
  - B. Suggested Actions: Review schedule of fees within Village Code.
4. Review Options for legislation designed to alleviate unfunded mandates (retirement, health care costs), increase AIM funding (state funding for municipalities), and relieve the financial burden of supporting The College at Brockport.
  - A. Objective: to push the State to increase its financial support of municipalities
  - B. Suggested Actions: Become familiar with NYCOM's legislative agenda and budget and work with state legislators to accomplish this.

### *Membership*

The Task Force shall be 9 members, appointed by the mayor: 2 Village Board members serving as co-chairs; 2 village business owners, 2 village homeowners, 1 Sweden Town Board representative, 2 others.

The two Village Board members will co-chair the committee. A recording secretary will be elected by the committee from among its membership.

### *Meetings*

The Task Force will meet at least monthly; the meetings will be public; minutes will be taken by the secretary, approved by the members, and published on the Village website.

### *Duration of Task Force and Reporting*

Before the close of the 2016-17 fiscal year, the committee will prepare and issue a report to the Village Board with findings and recommendations for actions. Co-chairs will provide periodic interim reporting on the task force's activities at Village Board meetings.

The task force will remain in place until such time as the Task Force and Village Board determine that its work is complete.