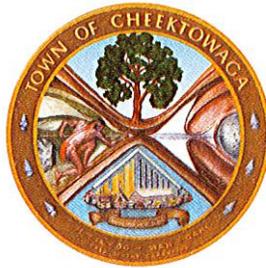


The
Town of
Cheektowaga



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MARY F. HOLTZ
Town Supervisor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Supervisor Holtz Submits 2010 Tentative Budget
and Calls for Personnel Policy Changes**

Contact: Supervisor Mary F. Holtz
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Cheektowaga, NY – September 30, 2009 – Preparation of the 2010 budget was the most painful, frustrating and difficult challenge I have encountered as Town Supervisor. Brian Krause, Director of Administration and Finance, and I have spent the past month scrutinizing the figures and have cut well over \$700,000 from the budget, a budget that consists primarily of payroll and compensation costs.

The budget does not include raises for elected, appointed, non-union or part-time workers as well as union employees whose contracts have expired or will expire at the end of the year. Actually, there is a reduction in payroll costs.

A new personnel policy for elected and non-union employees will be presented at the Town Board meeting on October 19 which will set the precedent for the negotiation of future contracts with employees. Highlights of this policy will call for contributions by all employees toward health insurance premiums, a reduction in benefits for future employees and, most important for the future of our Town, the end of legacy health insurance for all newly hired employees and newly elected officials.

The budget I am putting forth for 2010 shows a 2.75% increase. 2.45% of this increase is entirely based on the higher costs for both retirement and health insurance. These costs are all contractual and are beyond our control. The remaining .3% will allow us to provide the much needed renovation of the police and court building.

I have included the renovation of the police and court building in this budget because this building, constructed in 1967, can no longer meet the needs of our community. Unfortunately, the number of criminal and other cases have increased a hundredfold over the last 40 years and we are no longer able to put a band aid on this problem. For the health and security of our employees and our citizens, we need to proceed with this project. The reconstruction project is not intended to produce the Cadillac of buildings, but will instead provide the most economical way that we can proceed – it will be the Chevy model.

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