

TO: Town of Seneca Residents

RE: TOWN OF SENECA TAX LEVY

The following is an update on the status of the Landfill permit, and tax levy buy-down for the Town of Seneca.

While the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has cleared the local hurdles for the expansion permit, we await the final review from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on air quality concerns. The DEC filed a report to the EPA on December 10th, 2015. The EPA has 45 days from receipt of that report to issue comments on air quality as it pertains to the expansion. If they do not comment on the report, then the expansion permit is deemed complete and landfill operations will continue largely uninterrupted.

However, if the EPA chooses to comment and raise challenges to the air quality, it could delay the expansion for several weeks or possibly months. These delays could bring landfill operations to a complete halt as they wait for final approval. If operations cease, the town payments that are paid on tonnage received will also cease.

With this uncertainty of revenue from the landfill for 2016, and the Town Board's priority to maintain the current level of town services, while continuing to have no town tax, the Town Board voted NOT to buy-down the County Tax levy for January 2016 as has been done in recent years. Unfortunately, this will result in approximately a \$2.10 per thousand increase in your county tax bill.

Possible relief from this increase may come from New York State through the Property Tax Freeze Credit program. More information on this program can be found on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance web site.

https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/rp5301fs_prop_tax_facts.pdf

In light of all the uncertainty that surrounds the situation the Town Board feels this is the most prudent decision to make at this time. If you have any questions please contact Supervisor Drew Wickham at 585-526-5251.