



**2016 VILLAGE BUDGET MESSAGE
FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

The 2016 Village Budget adopted by the Village Board on December 2nd, 2015 is a balanced budget with a tax levy totaling \$4,514,674. This tax levy represents a 3% increase compared to the previous year’s tax levy, or an increase of \$149,492. The assessed value tax rate for the Village is set at \$6.99, which is an increase of \$0.07, or 1%. The average assessed value for all homes in the Village of Little Chute is approximately \$135,000. The total tax on an average \$135,000 assessed value home, if located within the Little Chute School District, will be broken down as follows (previous year information in parentheses):

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Taxing Authority</u>
\$ 934.20	\$ 943.65	Village of Little Chute – 29 % of total rate
\$1,356.75	\$1,495.80	Little Chute School District – 46% of total rate
\$ 646.65	\$ 658.80	Outagamie County – 20% of total rate
\$ 149.85	\$ 152.55	Fox Valley Technical College – 4% of total rate
\$ 22.95	\$ 22.95	State of Wisconsin – 1% of total rate
\$3,110.40	\$3,273.75	Total Tax for a \$135,000 Assessed Value Home Located in the Little Chute School District (before Lottery Credit and First Dollar Credit).

As you can see, the tax bill on an average home in the Little Chute School District will see an **increase** of **\$163.35** on this year’s tax bill. Another important aspect to note is that of your total property tax bill, the Village of Little Chute’s portion is ~29% of the total tax rate. To illustrate where your tax dollars go in the Village of Little Chute in another format, see the table below:

Village of Little Chute Levy Allocation	
In this table, we illustrate how the tax levy is allocated to various functions in the Village of Little Chute. Property Tax on an average assessed home (Village of Little Chute portion is ~29% of the total bill): \$943.65 Monthly Cost of the Village portion of the property tax: \$78.64	
General Government: This accounts for expenditures for administrative functions, Village Board, elections, legal counsel, property assessments, and insurance. In addition, the departments of finance, public works, parks, recreation and forestry and the Little Chute Fire Department are funded in this account: \$18.58/month	Fox Valley Metro Police Department: This accounts for expenditures for costs associated with police services: \$30.13/month
Debt Service: This accounts for expenditures for general obligation debt that is covered by the tax levy: \$18.52/month	Aquatics: This accounts for expenditures related to operation of the Doyle Park Pool facility: \$0.87/month
Capital Projects: This accounts for expenditures for maintenance, repair, or upgrade expenses of capital assets such as facility upgrades and equipment purchases: \$4.92/month	Library: This accounts for expenditures related to the operation of the Little Chute Library: \$5.61/month

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2016 WAGES AND BENEFITS – The budget included and the Village Board adopted an updated wage and compensation plan, which included a one and half percent (1.5 %) increase in the budget line item for wages for non-represented Village employees for 2016. Non-represented Village employees will pay 9% of the premium cost for health insurance in 2016, versus the 7% they paid in 2015. This increase is to cover the increase in premiums for Health Insurance.

PERSONNEL CHANGES – The Village authorized three additional positions in the Finance Department in the 2016 Budget. The return of the utility billing function to the Village resulted in the creation of two (2) part-time cashiers, one (1) full-time accounting clerk position and one (1) part-time accountant. These positions are the result of a commitment by the Utility Commission and Village Board to provide excellent customer service to our residents and taxpayers.

FUND BALANCE – The Village’s undesignated Fund Balance at year-end is projected to total \$1,871,110 or 47% of our annual expenditure budget, which provides the Village with excellent protection and flexibility in the event it is needed as a “rainy day” insurance policy or for use to address unanticipated needs as we proceed through next year. The Village’s historical goal for the Fund Balance has been 25%, or higher, of the annual expenditure budget.

DEBT- The 2016 total budget for debt service is \$2,982,374. The tax levy is scheduled to cover \$1,063,294 of this debt service payment with the balance being paid by collection of special assessments, T.I.D. increment, and utility user fees. The Village’s debt ratio at the end of 2015 is anticipated to be approximately 58.89% of the legal limit. During 2015, the Village issued approximately \$3,245,000 of new debt. The long term average debt ratio goal the Village Board strives for is to be around or lower than 50% of the legal limit.

STATE REQUIRED EXPENDITURE RESTRAINT - The 2016 Expenditure Restraint Limit is 1.8% for the Village. The adopted budget is \$97,851 below the Expenditure Restraint Limit.

UTILITY RATES - The sanitary sewer rate is proposed to remain the same for 2016. Due to a major plant project scheduled to commence on Well #1 in 2016/2017, the Village will complete a full rate case in 2016 for the water utility. The sanitation fees (garbage/recycling) will see a proposed increase of 3% for 2016 and the Village will begin billing commercial sanitation accounts on a monthly basis. Lastly, the storm water rate will increase from \$7/ERU to \$8/ERU in 2016.

SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS –In early 2015, Village staff, particularly our Public Works Department, completed the remodeling of the Village Hall’s 3rd floor. This team effort saved tens of thousands of dollars for the Village and created efficiencies by allowing Public Works, Engineering and Parks, Recreation and Forestry office staff to relocate to Village Hall. Major storm water projects were completed in 2015 and included the Buchanan Interceptor, Cherryvale Interceptor and Industrial Park West project. These vital projects pave the way for current and future economic development opportunities in the Village. Additionally, our Public Works team executed street reconstruction of East Greenfield Drive and Fillmore Street. We thank the residents on those streets for your patience as we know these projects, while needed, does disrupt the normal day to day routine.

From an administrative perspective, staff redeveloped the Village’s website, conducted intensive reviews on health insurance options, executed a comprehensive wage and compensation study and complete re-write and overhaul of the Village’s personnel manual. Additionally, every department in the Village participated in a comprehensive rewrite of the Village’s emergency response plan and the 2016 budget appropriately funds a line item dedicated to emergency response. Lastly, there has been significant efforts in numerous departments to bring utility billing internally back the Village of Little Chute. The lion share of work has been executed by the Finance Department in preparation for this change.

Again in 2016, the budget embraces the Village’s 2015-2019 strategic plan by maintaining existing service levels while making key investments in the areas of economic development, strengthening intergovernmental partnerships, engaging our residents more effectively and ensuring that we utilize our resources in the most efficient manner. One initiative that I am excited about in 2016 is a community wide survey we will be conducting so that the Village can gauge the satisfaction levels of our residents. We will use that data to establish benchmarks for resident satisfaction, identifying areas for needed improvement and seeing if there are things we can do differently. Through the course of 2016, we will enact other strategic initiatives aimed at the four areas highlighted above. It is my firm belief that these efforts will continue to allow the Village to be a better organization and more responsive government for the residents of Little Chute.

I would like to thank and recognize all our team members for the tremendous effort exhibited in 2015 and during this lengthy budget process. I would like to thank Teri Matheny, the Village’s Finance Director, for her dedicated efforts on the 2016 Budget. On behalf of the Village Board and staff, we are pleased to maintain a high level of Village services and always look forward to working with our citizens to ensure an efficient and effective allocation of resources. Should you have any questions on the budget or any matter, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Merry Christmas!



James P. Fenlon
Village Administrator
December 3rd, 2015

