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\$2.4 million budget adopted in Blasdell

By Eileen Werbitsky
SOUTHTOWNS CORRESPONDENT

The Blasdell Village Board has adopted a \$2.4 million budget for 2009-10 that calls for a 4 percent tax increase—despite a \$64,700 reduction in spending.

The new budget has a tax rate of \$17.32 per \$1,000 of assessed value — up from \$16.65. The fiscal year begins June 1.

Village Administrator Janet Plarr on Wednesday blamed falling revenue for the village’s budgetary bind.

“Sales tax has decreased a lot and interest earnings is practically non-existent,” she said. “In 2007-08 we made \$17,000 in interest earnings on the general fund alone. This year, that number is down to \$3,000.”

The village also has been hurt by a decrease in utility taxes — income from telephone, electric, gas and cable TV bills — because usage is down, she said.

The village needs to raise \$1.17 million from the property tax levy, or about 47 percent of the total budget. Blasdell’s continuing decline in assessed property valuations has made this a tough goal, Plarr said.

Since 1994, the village has lost \$10.7 million or 13.6 percent in valuations.

In other news, village elections are scheduled for noon to 9 p. m. Wednesday in Village Hall. Two trustee seats are open.

On the ballot are incumbent Daniel Kij and newcomers Michael Petrie, Jeffrey Adrian and Richard Rydza. George Lee is not seeking another term.

Village Judge Daniel Grasso is running unopposed for another four-year term.



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