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# Village of Depew should be dissolved

Depew is the land of ever-increasing high taxes and fees. The proposed 2009-10 budget includes record spending and higher taxes—the seventh consecutive year village residents will see a tax increase. In addition, the mayor cannot even balance the budget without taking \$500,000 of taxpayers' money from the General Fund.

Under the proposed budget, a property owner in Depew in the Town of Lancaster assessed at \$150,000 will pay about \$832 more (\$2,178 versus \$1,346); that's 62 percent more in combined village-town taxes than if the property was located in Lancaster outside the villages.

Depew has little growth potential to offset higher future costs of running a village government. Thus, one will continue to see higher and higher taxes as Depew continues to stagnate.


The only long-term solution to this tax mess is to drastically cut spending and services while Depew is dissolved. Once dissolved, most village employees would find their jobs and benefits transferred to the Towns of Lancaster and Cheektowaga, which would provide comparable services, and taxpayers would benefit since it eliminates an unnecessary layer of government and reduces taxes.

Irv Reinig

*Depew*

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