



TOWN OF
HORSEHEADS
NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For the first time in anyone's memory, the Town of Horseheads finds it necessary to implement a real property tax. The Town of Horseheads has not had a general town tax for more than 30 years. A major source of income for the Town over the years has been sales tax revenue, a portion of which has been divided among the County, and the City, Towns and Villages on a fifty-fifty basis.

A few years ago, the County Legislature reduced the percentage of the sales tax shared with the City, Towns and Villages. The reduction of the percentage share of the municipalities is being implemented over a number of years.

The Town Board has made a number of decisions to reduce the expenses of the Town, these include: reduction of the workforce by not replacing a number of people who have left town employment; fixing the amount paid by the Town toward employee health insurance; contracting out dog enforcement on a shared services contract with the City and contracting out for legal services. The budget has been reduced from \$5.45 million in 2015 to \$4.75 million for the 2017 fiscal year.

Further, the Town currently shares services with the Town of Big Flats for assessor services, and the City of Elmira for code enforcement services. The town has no short term or long term debt. The loss of the sales tax income can only be replaced by reduction of expenses, reduction of service and labor and the additional income source of real estate taxes.

The Town of Horseheads, the City and Towns and Villages in County have and will continue to suffer the loss of sales tax revenue, which will place additional burdens on municipal taxpayers.

It is estimated the Town tax within the Villages of Elmira Heights and Horseheads will be \$1.19 per thousand of taxable assessed property value and in the Town outside the Villages \$2.28 per thousand of taxable assessed property value.