

The Ohio Revised Code requires that I make a statement as to the condition of the village at the first meeting of the year. This will be my 8th and final statement.

I first took office on January 1, 2004. On that day the general fund balance was \$35,989.00. Today the general fund balance is \$271,897.00. The general fund under my watch has increased \$235,000.00 without an increase in the income tax.

On my first day as Mayor, the sewer fund balance was \$82,599.00. Today the sewer fund balance is \$120,893.00, which is an increase of \$40,000.00.

When I leave office, I know the village will be better off financially than it was when I took office. I am proud of that fact as should be all the employees and council members who served with me.

It would be easy to increase the cash reserves by not doing anything, but we have increased the reserves and done things.

For example, in 1949 the engineering firm Burgess & Niple recommended that the village install meters. In 2009 we did it. So far the meters have done exactly what we wanted them to do. They have decreased water consumption by approximately 2.4 million gallons which is more than 20%.

In addition to the meters, we developed a new source of water, replaced the 1st Street and Hawk pumps, built a new tank to replace the leaking reservoir, replaced water mains on N. St. Rt. 60, Oakwood, Button Addition, added fire hydrants, and within the next month will add a second river crossing.

On the sewer side, we have upgraded the sewer plant by replacing nearly all the valves and diffusers. We have replaced all the pumps in all of our lift stations, we separated the combined sewers on Kennebec and have obtained approximately \$1 million of grants and low interest loans to do another round of sewer separation this year.

On the general fund side, we have tuck pointed the Opera House, upgraded the swimming pool, made repairs to the tennis court, planted 60 street trees, paved numerous streets, added a welcome sign, and initiated a sidewalk repair program.

We also improved the equipment available to the staff. Highlights include a new backhoe, zero turn mower, and generator.

We have not improved our financial position on the backs of the staff. The exact opposite is true. Every employee who worked for the village the day I became Mayor has seen his or her pay increase by double digits. Some employee pay has increased over 30%. Those employees who saw these large increases either were in my opinion grossly underpaid before or took on new responsibilities to get the increase. I was happy to see all of them benefit.

I am most proud, however, of the Kiwanis-Jaycee Community Park. Our youth leagues now have quality safe places to practice and play. Slowly, the park is becoming a place for teenagers and young adults to hang out and for us middle aged people to walk. As time goes by and the park continues to develop, its use will increase. The park also is something that improves our image as a community. When outsiders visit us and see quality facilities their impression of us increases. When our children realize that their facilities are better than their neighbors, our children's perception of themselves increases.