

## 2018 BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

The 2018 Village Budget adopted by the Village Board on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is a balanced budget with a tax levy totaling \$4,912,301. This tax levy represents a 0.28% decrease compared to the previous year's tax levy, or a **decrease** of \$13,610. The assessed value tax rate for 2018 for the Village is set at \$7.21, which is a **decrease** of \$0.10, or a decrease of 1.3%. 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:

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Taxing Authority</u>
\$ 986.85	\$973.35	Village of Little Chute
\$1,420.20	\$1,524.15	Little Chute School District
\$ 650.70	\$670.95	Outagamie County
\$ 151.20	153.90	Fox Valley Technical College
\$ 22.95	N/A	State of Wisconsin
<b>\$3,231.90</b>	<b>\$3,322.35</b>	<b>Total Tax for a \$135,000 Assessed Value Home Located in the Little Chute School District (before Lottery Credit and First Dollar Credit).</b>

As you can see, the tax bill on an average home in the Little Chute School District will see an **increase** of **\$90.45** on this year's tax bill. Another important aspect to note is that the Village of Little Chute's portion is ~30% of the total tax rate. To illustrate where your tax dollars go in the Village of Little Chute in a different format, see the table below:

<b>Village of Little Chute Levy Allocation – A monthly analysis of Village services for an average homeowner.</b>	
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 ~30% of the total bill): <b>\$973.35</b> - Monthly Cost of the Village portion of the property tax: <b>\$81.11</b>	
General Government: This accounts for expenditures for administrative functions, Village Board, elections, legal counsel, property assessments, and inspections. In addition, the departments of finance, public works, parks, recreation and forestry and the Little Chute Fire Department are funded in this account: <b>\$21.79/month</b>	Fox Valley Metro Police Department: This accounts for expenditures for costs associated with police services: <b>\$29.92/month</b>
Debt Service: This accounts for expenditures for general obligation debt that is covered by the tax levy: <b>\$14.12/month</b>	Aquatics: This accounts for expenditures related to operation of the Doyle Park Pool facility: <b>\$0.82/month</b>
Capital Projects: This accounts for expenditures for maintenance, repair, or upgrade expenses of capital assets such as facility upgrades and equipment purchases: <b>\$8.15/month</b>	Library: This accounts for expenditures related to the operation of the Little Chute Library: <b>\$6.30/month</b>

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

**2018 WAGES AND BENEFITS** – The budget included a two percent (2 %) increase in the budget line item for wages for non-represented Village employees for 2018. Non-represented Village employees will continue to pay 10% of the premium cost for health insurance in 2018. For our sworn officers who are part of the Fox Valley Metro Professional Police Association, the budget includes a two and a half percent (2.5%) increase in the budget line item for wages. In addition, those officers will continue to pay 15% of the premium cost for health insurance in 2018.

**PERSONNEL CHANGES** – With changes occurring this year in the Fox Valley Metro Police Department, there have been personnel changes to address the loss of revenue from Combined Locks. The Department had previously been authorized 30 sworn officers will now become a department of 26 sworn officers through succession and other personnel moves. In addition, the telecommunication staff will transition from 2 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees to 2 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee. At Village Hall, the Public Works Department and Engineering Department will benefit from the addition of a full-time employee to handle permitting, which has become an increasingly challenging effort to maintain. The new employee will focus primarily on right-of-way permits and other efforts related to public works. Finally, due to retirements in Public Works and Fox Valley Metro Police Department, a new Director of Public Works is projected to start January of 2018 and we are planning for a new Chief of Police to be starting in the Spring of 2018.

**FUND BALANCE** – The Village’s undesignated Fund Balance at year-end (2018) is projected to total \$3,000,000, or 70% 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 2018 total budget for debt service is \$2,665,598. The tax levy is scheduled to cover \$855,393 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 2017 is anticipated to be approximately 62% of the legal limit. During 2017, the Village issued new general obligation debt for both 2017 and 2018 in order to save on the cost of bonding. The long term average debt ratio goal the Village Board strives for is to be at or lower than 50% of the legal limit.

**UTILITY RATES** – All utility rates will remain the same for 2018. In 2017, the Water Utility conducted a major upgrade to Well #1 and staff worked through the process of a Safe Water Drinking Loan for the project. As is the normal process, staff will monitor the utilities from an operational and financial perspective and then work with the Utility Commission to ensure the utilities are operating in an efficient and effective manner.

**SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** –In 2017, Village staff was busy with a number of major projects that were aimed at improving operations and efficiencies. A special note of pride for the Village is the new Municipal Services Building, which was completed and moved into this fall. Special thanks go out to the entire Public Works and Parks/Forestry team, in addition to the Board of Trustees and staff who helped with planning and construction. In particular, I would like to recognize DPW Director Jeff Elrick who worked tirelessly to ensure the building was constructed as planned and worked seamlessly with the Construction Manager and Architect on the project. Staff also executed the construction of Harvest Trail into a concrete street this summer. Thanks to the residents for their patience and feedback during the Harvest Trail construction and planning process.

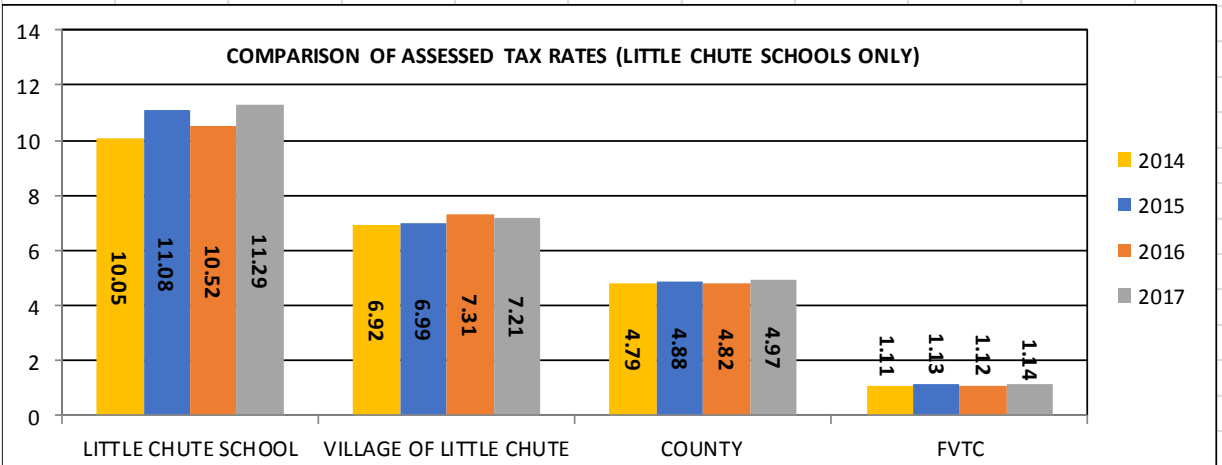
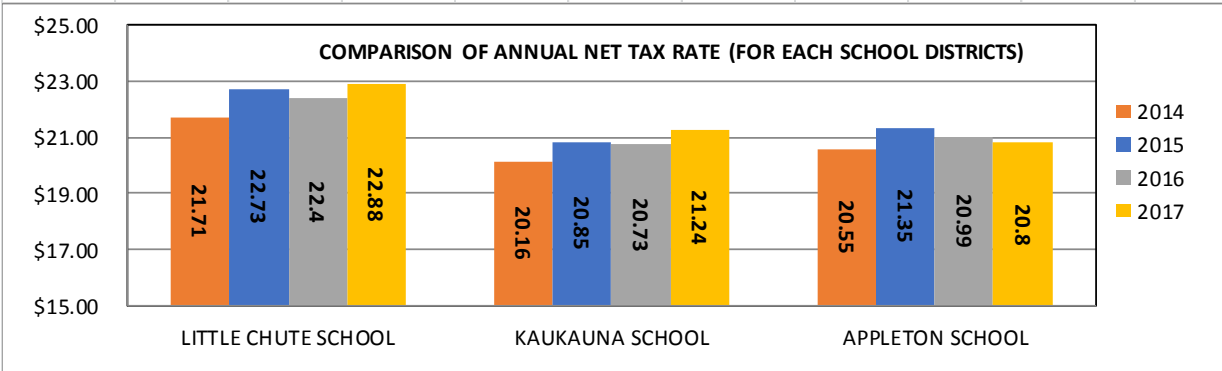
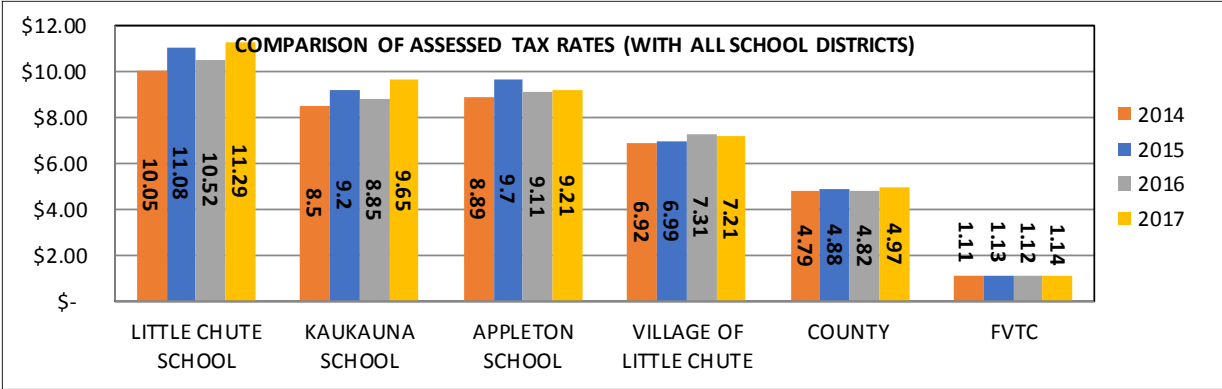
Also this year, staff was tasked with addressing organizational items somewhat outside of their control. The primary driver of a number of meetings and future transition came with the departure of Combined Locks from Fox Valley Metro Police Department. The Villages of Kimberly and Little Chute and the Police Department worked diligently through the year to establish parameters for that change, primarily in the form of the 2018 budget. While the changes and implementation won’t be easy, Fox Valley Metro Police Department continues to focus on its core functions while addressing items that make the Department one of the best in the Valley.

Again in 2018, 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. Due to downtown planning efforts in 2017, we will begin 2018 by getting to work on a number of policy and capital related projects focusing on the downtown. In addition, staff is looking at ways we can drive further communication, events and collaboration across the entire community. If you haven’t checked out the Village’s website or social media accounts, you should definitely do so!

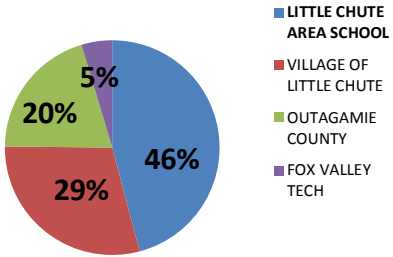
I would like to thank and recognize all our team members for the tremendous effort exhibited in 2017. We accomplished a number of great things that will position the Village for even more opportunities in 2018. I would like to thank all Department Heads and Teri Matheny, the Village’s Finance Director, for her dedicated efforts on the 2018 Budget. On behalf of the Village Board and staff, we are pleased to maintain the high level of Village services you have come to expect and deserve. 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

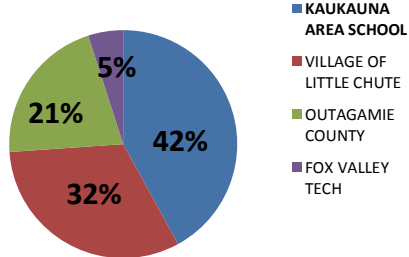


**2017**



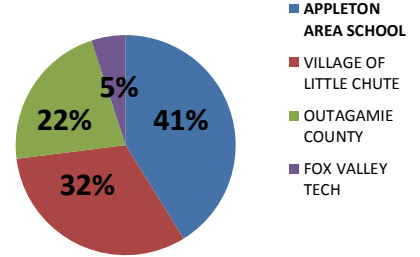
Total Tax Rate =

**2017**



Total Tax Rate = \$22.97

**2017**



Total Tax Rate =