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May 23, 2014

To the Caledonia Community,

While I was campaigning I told many of you that if elected I would be sending a letter about our budgets and future ideas. The budgets were passed on April 15th and we have many ideas, so here they are:

We took the tentative budgets from the previous board and made a few changes. Our final General Budget is \$1,224,665. We decided not to purchase a new police car this year. We would have to deplete \$25,000 from the General Equipment Reserve and at this time we felt that we could not afford to do this. Instead we will wait one year and continue to finance annually at \$8,500 for three years. We reduced the part-time police vacation coverage from 240 hours to 120 hours. This saved us \$2,160. There still is \$24,624 in the part-time budget to cover three 8-hour shifts each week and 120 vacation hours.

While talking about the Police Department, here is the financial information about their budget. The expense budget is \$294,385, however we receive revenues of \$2,100 from the Town of Caledonia and \$24,890 from Livingston County for our School Resource Officer Todd Estabrooks. With these revenues it brings the overall cost to \$267,395 or 21% of the General Budget. Many people think the police budget is half of the General Budget but as you can see it is not. If you have any other questions about this budget, please feel free to call me.

All full-time employees received a 2% increase in their salaries. The Mayor's salary was reduced from \$9,300 to \$4,500 and the four Village Trustees did not take an increase. I also reduced the Mayor's expenses which saved \$1,500.

The Department of Public Works main project is paving South Drive and Grand Avenue, which will be paid for using \$48,378 from the State Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS). We will also be patching and crack filling roads, repairing sidewalks on State Street and making drainage improvements to the east side of Spring Street. We feel we need to start planning ahead for our new projects, so the board has agreed to a new infrastructure reserve. We will be putting \$14,560 into this reserve in June. The existing General Equipment Reserve will have \$5,000 deposited into it. The only new equipment is a compact excavator which is being leased for three years. There are still three years of debt left to pay on the Street Light Replacement Project bond.

Our future plan for 2015 is to mill and pave Stoney Oak Circle, which is needed. In 2016, we will replace our existing water main on Church Street with an 8" water main and finish the sidewalks. In 2017 we hope to pave Church Street and Iroquois Road hill and install new curbs. The estimation for the Church Street project is over \$230,000 and costs will rise over the next two years. It is important that we start saving now for this project.

Now let's talk about water. Our Water Budget is \$415,695. Water is separate from the village General Fund. Many have asked why our water rates are so high. Our DPW Superintendent Chris Buckley explains the water rates on our village website: www.villageofcaledonianyny.org. Please go on-line and read this or stop by the Village Office for a copy. I want to make a few comments about our water rates. When I took office I was given the information on the State Street water main bond. In 2004, E&R Construction began replacing the water main and connections to homeowners on State Street. The existing main was installed in early 1900's and did not provide fire protection to the residents of the southeast side of the village. I have no problem with a new water main however my problem is the cost of the bond. The bond is \$495,000 over 18 years. Long term bonding began in 2008 and the final payment is in 2025. We are locked into a 4.7% interest rate until 2017 and will refinance then to reduce this rate. From 2008 to 2014 we have paid \$150,000 in principal and \$143,045 in interest and still have 11 years to go. It is a very large amount of money to pay in interest for our small community but until we refinance the debt we have to pay the higher interest rates. My final comment about this is that I do not like to bond unless it is absolutely necessary. We have to be careful with our funds.

Chris Buckley would like to inform residents that a copy of the 2013 Water Quality Report is available on our website www.villageofcaledonianyny.org. or at the Village Office. Please note that water invoices are mailed quarterly. They should arrive in the mail to your home no later than January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. If you do not receive yours, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to contact the Village Office. The telephone number is 538-6565 and Ann or Sandy will send you another bill. Late fees *will not* be waived for lost mail, therefore, please mark your calendars for these arrival dates.

We are still pursuing funding for the Mill Street culvert replacements. We have spoken to the offices of Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Collins, State Senator Gallivan and Assemblyman Nojay. I will keep you informed of our progress.

The previous board included funding for a Comprehensive Plan. The last plan was completed in the 1960's and is outdated. A Comprehensive Plan is important to seek federal and state funding. We have a committee in place and are working with professional planners Stuart I. Brown Associates to develop the new plan. Included in this letter is a survey to assist with the plan. *Your input is important to us.* Please fill it out and return it to the Village Office or fill out the survey on our village website.

Let's talk about some fun things! The Caledonia Recreation Committee is planning for a great year for our youth. Director Ashley Cummings and her committee are very dedicated to this program. A list of events will be handed out on the first day Hamilton Park opens on June 30th. The Penny Carnival-Movie Night will be on August 8th at Washburn Park. The Penny Carnival will begin at 5:30 p.m. and around 8:30 p.m. the movie will start. On May 31st from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. we are having a Meet and Greet in Trigon Park next to Pizza Land. The Village Board and Department Supervisors will be available to answer your questions. If it rains, it will be held at the Village Office. Please take the time to stop in and visit. At our May meeting we voted on a new name for Trigon Park. Last year the Boy Scouts gave two recommendations: Monument Park and Soldier's Park. The Village Board chose to rename the park Monument Park. On Saturday, July 19th we will celebrate the dedication of this park. More information will follow. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you there. The New York State Fish Hatchery will host a 150th Anniversary Celebration on August 9th and August 10th at the fish hatchery on North Street. September 27th is the second year for the Harvest Hop and December 6th is Hometown Holidays. We have new events for both of these celebrations.

I mentioned our village website already a few times. Please continue to check the website for update information on events in our community and for Department Reports. We are currently making many changes to the website and hope to have it completed soon. My thanks to the Department Supervisors, Ann and Sandy and the Village Board for all the help you have given me. This is my second time as Mayor and I look forward to the next four years.

A few final words: What makes our community great? Our school, volunteer groups, small and large businesses and people willing to invest in Caledonia. My goal is to try and fill our empty storefronts, improve our infrastructure and make Caledonia a destination. We have great restaurants, historic buildings, the Caledonia Country Club, the Caledonia Fish Hatchery, the Big Springs Museum, Spring Creek famous for trout fishing and a large variety of shopping in our downtown. It sounds like a destination to me. The most important thing in making a great community is all of YOU who live here. Together we can only make it better. Thank you for your support.

Mayor Debbie Davis

