

Donna Conkling

From: Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, January 02, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Donna Conkling
Subject: Fw: Property Tax Prepayment

From: David Chalfin <dchalfin1@optonline.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Property Tax Prepayment

Hello Mayor Hochvert,
I have followed somewhat the recent postings on the village website regarding the legal basis for whether Scarsdale residents can pre-pay any of the three components of the property tax bill.

Of course it was disappointing to read that “the staff” has determined that this is not feasible.

I have heard various potential responses from NYState residents, and have not (yet) looked into the details of Scarsdale’s rationale or that of other towns.

But I do want to communicate this, Mr. Hochvert: Life is on a curve. If it turns out that the village’s response (for which you and the trustees are ultimately responsible) is conservative legally, or that other villages are able to find a non-aggressive way for their residents to prepay part of their local taxes, I would fully support any political campaign with the goal of electing a new mayor and trustees.

I have lived in Scarsdale for 17.5 years. In general I have and plan to fully support the non-partisan procedures that have been generally embraced in the village for electing the mayor and trustees. And I think the trustees and mayor have in general done a good job. Matters such as building and remodeling parking garages, paving roads, collecting garbage, running the schools (very important and generally done well by the Board of Ed), floating Long-term bonds, issuing COIs, approving house renovations, even tax revaluation procedures — these are all topics that seem appropriate to address under a non-partisan system.

On the other hand, something like addressing local property tax procedures in the context of major (blue state-red state) changes in the federal tax code seems different to me. If authorities in other towns in NY state end up being able to tweak their procedures to allow their residents to prepay taxes but Scarsdale can’t, that would seem to me to be a good basis to see if there are residents in town who are better suited to represent citizens’ financial interests than the people now entrusted with this authority.

Happy Holidays,
David A. Chalfin
21 Dunham Road

Sent from my iPad