

Russ, Brennan & VIP are up to their games again. Get the REAL facts, not the election-time spin.

The REAL facts on Brookfield Finances...

The operating budget for the year just completed was \$12.1 million dollars, which was less than every year dating back to 2002. In fact, the operating budget in 2003, under the prior VIP administration, was \$15.1 million, the highest in history. Expenses under the current administration have been under budget each of the last four years, resulting in an operating surplus of \$467,310. The operating deficit for four years under the prior VIP administration was -\$2,687,507, causing the General Fund reserves to go from over \$5 million when VIP took office in 2001 to \$2.5 million when they left office in 2005. The current General Fund sits at \$3.1 million. The serious issue right now is cash flow, due to the State being behind in income tax dispersals, and the County being behind in property tax dispersals. Income tax and property tax revenue account for nearly \$9 million annually to the village. While the overall economic climate has affected Brookfield just like every other community, business, and household, Brookfield officials are taking the necessary actions to lessen the impact this has on Brookfield residents.

The REAL facts of the Library Levy...

In early 2007, staff miscalculated the amount of property taxes that could be levied on the residents. This resulted in the residents being charged about \$500,000 LESS in property taxes than they could have been. This was not a cost to the residents...the residents got to keep the money. The Village did not count on this extra money in their budget, so it did not affect any services.

The REAL facts on the Village Manager...

The Village Manager of Brookfield is paid \$135,000 per year, which is in the middle of what comparable managers are paid. The Village Manager of neighboring Lagrange is paid \$150,000. The Village Manager of neighboring Riverside, which has 1/3 of the number of employees as Brookfield and less than half the population, is paid \$131,000. Brookfield's previous manager was paid \$95,000 5 years ago, and had no village management experience when he was hired. Due to his inexperience, a separate person familiar with grants needed to be hired. This person was paid a salary as well as a commission. Combined, their salaries far exceeded what the current manager is making. The current manager has been able to procure over \$6.5 million in grants, with no commission or extra costs being incurred. The Village is also operating with 8 less employees than in 2005, and the manager's office is down to 2 ½ fulltime positions from 4 full time positions in 2005.

The REAL facts on the Salt Purchase...

Each year, the Village of Brookfield purchases salt thru a State Program. The same system has been in place for over 20 years. This year, the price given to Brookfield, and nearly 100 other communities, was more than twice what it had been in the past, and much more than several neighboring communities. There was no missed deadline or any other error made in ordering this salt. The Village of Brookfield, and these other communities, have filed a complaint with the Attorney General, who is investigating why some communities were given a higher price through this State program than others.

Make sure you have the facts this election.

Don't be fooled by the VIP games.

It's YOUR Village. It's YOUR money. It's YOUR choice.

Keep Brookfield Moving Forward. VOTE PEP.

Please call 387-3370 or stop by our office at 8848 Ogden if you have any questions.