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November 29, 2010

To the Herkimer County Legislature
County Office Building
Herkimer, New York 13350

Honorable Legislators:

In accordance with Article 7, Section 345 and 355 of the County Law, New York State, I herewith submit the Tentative Budget for Herkimer County for the fiscal year 2011 for your consideration and adoption.

The 2011 Tentative Budget requests an appropriation of \$94,448,784 which represents an increase of \$2,359,486 from the 2010 budgeted appropriations. This is a 2.6% overall increase in appropriations.

The largest increase in appropriations is for Medicaid (\$1,680,000) reflecting the phase out of the temporary FMAP increase (federal stimulus). Other large increases include Handicapped Pre-K (\$200,000), employee retirement (\$329,432) and health insurance (\$833,975).

The property tax levy remains the same as in 2010 (\$24,003,000). The actual full value of property in Herkimer County declined by 3.79% in the past year resulting in an overall increase in full value tax rate of 3.94% on the same tax levy. This would have resulted in the same or lower actual tax payment for each unchanged property if assessments were uniform throughout the county. However, differences in the actual and assessed values from town to town will result in some rates increasing while others decrease with most towns seeing an increase in assessed value. Countywide, many factors have an impact on the average tax rate including a total revaluation to 100% in one town during the year. Overall, the countywide average tax rate per 1,000 of assessed taxable value will decline by 3.1% from 6.86 to 6.65 per 1,000.

The detailed budget and summary attached hereto is self explanatory and reflects an increase or decrease in the appropriations and tax levy for the eighteen major functions of County Government.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Mr. Russell, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Smith, Chairman of the Legislature, Mr. Wallace, County Administrator, all Department Heads, and my staff for their cooperation and assistance in developing Herkimer County's operating budget for 2011.

As always this office is available to assist you in your final deliberation of this budget.

Respectfully,

BERNARD E. DECKER
Budget Officer/Purchasing Agent

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Attachment