



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Circleville Herald
By Steven Collins
January 22, 2016

NEW HOLLAND — The Village of New Holland has posted financial records online thanks to a partnership with the Ohio Treasurer's office.

Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandel announced the partnership at a press conference on Friday, the same day the information went live on the site.

The village's online checkbook includes over 7,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$2 million of total spending over the past three years. New Holland is the second village in Pickaway County to post spending on OhioCheckbook.com.

"I believe the people of Pickaway County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on OhioCheckbook.com," Mandel said. "By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable."

Mavis Yourchuck, village fiscal officer, shared her thoughts on putting the checkbook online.

"New Holland is excited to demonstrate our fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers by partnering with the state treasurer's office on OhioCheckbook.com," Yourchuck said. "This transparency tool comes at no cost to the village and will allow the village residents to view factual information on our expenditures in a searchable, easy-to-use format."

"What a better what to get the transparency to the public so they can see how their money is being spent," said New Holland Mayor Clair Betzkoe. "You can now pass levies and people can see how that money is spent. We hope the village residents can see this and they can feel good about when they go into the polls and vote for a levy that they know exactly what they're voting for, instead of false promises."

Betzcoe said the website will also allow the public to learn more about the budget, how much things cost in the village and who is receiving payment for their work.

"As I say at all our council meetings, the residents are always welcome. I believe in absolute transparency. It's a wonderful tool that allows the people to question the government people on what they are doing."

"We really view this initiative as power to the people," said Seth Unger, a representative for Mandel's office. "We're trying to create an army of citizen watchdogs that are able to hold politicians accountable and see where their tax dollars are going. That's going to mean better decisions and a more efficient government and even a deterrent to some of the issues we've seen."

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On April 7, 2015, Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

For more information or to view your municipality on the website, visit the Local Government option on OhioCheckbook.com.

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