

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### Village of Fonda Receives Positive 2024 Ratings from New York State Comptroller – Stability in Our Finances, Clarity on Our Community –

We're pleased to share the results of the **2024 Fiscal Stress and Environmental Stress Monitoring Reports** issued by the New York State Comptroller. These reports provide an objective snapshot of the Village government's financial, environmental, and social conditions impacting our population.

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#### **Fiscal Stress Score: 3.3 out of 100 – “No Designation”**

##### **What It Means:**

New York State does not consider The Village of Fonda under fiscal stress. The **score of 3.3** was due to a small, one-time gap in our 2024 budget—where expenses slightly outpaced revenues for the year.

##### **The Good News:**

- Our **fund balance** and **cash on hand** remain strong.
- We **issued no short-term debt** and avoided borrowing to meet day-to-day expenses.
- We scored a perfect **zero** on all other financial risk indicators.

##### **Simple Explanation:**

A low score is good! 3.3 out of 100 means we had a small budget shortfall last year—likely due to rising costs—while maintaining a healthy reserve. **This shows we're managing your tax dollars responsibly while keeping services running.**

##### **Why It Matters:**

The **small 3.3 score reflects our efforts to avoid overburdening taxpayers**, even as inflation and material costs increased. As your Mayor, I pushed for modest, forward-thinking adjustments last year to avoid falling behind, and this report shows that those decisions kept the Village financially sound.

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#### **Environmental Stress Score: 10.0 out of 100 – “No Designation”**

##### **What It Means:**

This report reflects broader community conditions—like population change, income levels, housing values, and dependence on public assistance. The Village received a score of **10.0**, well below the stress threshold.

##### **The Good News:**

- **Unemployment is low** (just 3.0%)
- **Household incomes and home values have increased**
- **Public assistance rates are low**, indicating a working, self-sufficient community
- Our **dependence on state and federal aid is modest**, meaning we are largely self-reliant

## The Challenge:

The **only notable concern** was a **9.11% population decline** from 2018 to 2023. This isn't a financial issue—it's a community one.

## Why It Matters:

This is precisely why the **"Moving Fonda Forward"** plan is so important and timely. We're already acting on this—investing in housing, infrastructure, and economic revitalization to **bring people and businesses back** to our Village. Population decline doesn't define us—but it does guide our mission to revitalize and grow.

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## Moving Forward Together

These reports show that Fonda is **stable and resilient** financially and socially. But they also show why we must keep moving forward: **investing in people, managing costs, and planning ahead.**

We remain committed to:

- Making smart financial decisions
- Keeping taxes stable and fair
- Building a strong, attractive community for the next generation

Thank you for continuing to support these efforts. Together, we're building a better Fonda—**one step at a time.**

Sincerely,



Bill Peeler  
Mayor