



2020 Budget Message Town Supervisor Budget Message

2020 Town Budget being considered tonight is the result of draft departmental budgets, meetings with department heads, work sessions with the Town Board and careful re-working to develop a budget which is fiscally prudent, Property Tax Cap compliant and serves to continue to provide a high level of service to the community.

The 2020 budget follows this approach to ensure stability and to minimize the possibility of unpleasant financial surprises. The proposed final budget is the same as the Preliminary Budget which the Town Board adopted on November 19 and provides as follows: The appropriations for all funds is \$40,943,398 and the projected non-tax revenues total \$14,958,665, leaving an amount of \$25,984,733 to be levied as taxes; this amount is \$1,578 below the calculated allowable tax cap of \$25,986,311. The total General Fund's Preliminary budget is \$23,343,526 which requires \$13,097,370 to be raised by taxes at a tax rate of \$22.1441 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The proposed rate is \$0.10 higher than the rate for 2019, which represents a 0.44% tax rate increase. The General Fund Appropriations will increase \$812,681 or 3.60% higher than for 2019. Some of the key components of the budget include the following increases:

- Personnel expense: \$318,360
- Health insurance and dental: \$391,758
- Contingency of approximately \$75,428
- Debt Service: \$349,000
- NYS retirement system in the amount of \$62,017
- FlyCar Contract: 21,789
- Fire Protection District: 37,731
- Paving budget: \$100,000 to \$1.4 million.
- Open Space Fund in the amount of \$61,458 (the second year of the one-quarter percent increase authorized by voter referendum and capped at a total of 2.0% in 2022)
- Libraries in the amount of \$36,000 (\$12,000 per library)
- Reserves for Certiorari & Uncompensated Absences: \$60,000

As Comptroller Zambrano has advised, we still do not have the final percent increase from NYSHIP for health insurance premiums, however, there may be a decrease from what we have currently budget. I concur with his recommendation that to the extent there is any decrease,

any decreased amount be placed in the contingency account. This would be prudent given that there may be additional retirements in 2021 for which we have not received notice, but which will result in increased health insurance costs. Mr Zambrano has conservatively projected revenues and provided in the budget some modest latitude on expenditures to ensure we do not fall short. The Town has followed this approach for quite some time which has served the Town well. Comptroller Zambrano has projected that 2019 will end with expenditures within range and non-property tax revenues somewhat ahead of projections.

I wish to thank Comptroller Abraham Zambrano who also serves as 2020 Budget Officer and our department heads for so ably managing the Town's finances.