

Budget Message on Tentative Budget  
Fiscal Year June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018  
By: Mayor Patricia McDonald

The tentative budget that was presented at the Public Hearing held on April 6, 2017 reflects total expenses of \$16,592,588. Of that amount, \$14,281,436 will be raised through taxation and \$2,034,600 through other revenue sources. We have also utilized \$283,460 from our fund balance to offset this year's tax increase. The projected tax increase is below 2%.

The proposed tax rate of \$73.98 per \$100 of assessed value equates to a tax increase of 1.93%. To put the projected increase into perspective, if the assessed value of your home is \$6,250, your tax bill will increase by \$84.51 for the year or \$7.04 per month. Many hours have been spent to provide the lowest tax increase possible without compromising the services that are being provided to our residents.

Every budget year presents challenges, and this year's process was no exception. Our revenue sources continue to be affected by low interest rates on investments and the drastic drop in the mortgage tax. Our inquiries regarding state aid have indicated there will be no increase. The village's share of the Nassau county sales tax has remained flat for the last six years. While the village actively seeks all grant opportunities, this is another area that has been hard hit by the economy. Once again, the budget had to include funding for the MTA mobility tax that was imposed upon employers.

Last year's health insurance premium increased by approximately 10% but we have taken steps to reduce this cost through employee contributions.

We have been able to increase revenue in our operating budget once again as a result of contract negotiations with our solid waste disposal carrier for the amount paid to the Village for cardboard. With the support of our residents, we have seen the tonnage from cardboard recycling increase slightly but greater cooperation is needed by every resident and business owner in the village.

We have spoken with our current insurance providers and were able to negotiate minor increases in workers' compensation coverage as well as property and liability coverage. We have waited to replace two-full time employee who retired in order to cut operating expenses.

I would like to thank all village departments for keeping their budget submissions as low as possible. Here are a few examples:

Department of Public Works – 0.18%,

Fire Department – 0.78%,

Police Department – 1.06%

Treasurer's Department – 0.71%

Working together, this Board has accomplished our goal to provide the lowest possible tax increase yet still maintaining all village services.

Review of the budget continues as the tentative budget will not be finalized until its adoption on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.

Patricia McDonald, Mayor