



KARL A. BRABENEC, MPA

DEERPARK TOWN SUPERVISOR

2011 BUDGET MESSAGE:

Members of the Town Board, Town Clerk Santini, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2011 Supervisor's/Budget Officer's Tentative Budget. Throughout the past few months, this administration has taken major steps to make this town fiscally responsible. We have worked everyday to search for new vendors that will provide the taxpayers with cost savings opportunities. We have renegotiated various terms and agreements for energy consumption and phone usage, which will save money not only in the coming year, but in years to come. We have put together a multi-year financial plan, for the first time in this town's history, to ensure that we budget for the long-term and properly plan for the future. This board was the first board to set up reserve funds which will be used in the future for unanticipated expenditures and relieve the taxpayers of any sudden major tax increases. We are also still examining government expenditures and operations to make them more efficient, more accountable, and to trim any unnecessary expenses. In the beginning of the year, we cut two full-time positions to four part-time positions, which not only saved money on payroll, but will save an average of \$32,000 per year in health insurance costs, all while ensuring that our level of quality service remains high for our residents. Government must be run like a business and these are the kinds of responsible actions that we, as a community, must take now to sustain our government.

While we work very hard everyday to be responsible town fathers, we are faced with uncertain economic conditions, prior contractual commitments and increased pressure from unfunded mandates imposed by the county, state and federal governments. In addition, we continue to be plagued, by the fiscal mismanagement of past administrations, which resulted in our town owing the state of New York close to \$1.2 million dollars. While sales tax revenues remain steady, the real estate market has still not recovered resulting in our mortgage tax revenue steadily declining in recent years. We have seen a slow down in construction, which has resulted in less building fee revenue. Previous town boards, when economic times were good, promised guaranteed raises and generous benefits, that if continued unaltered in future years will certainly cause an unsustainable financial burden for the town's tax base. The county is requiring increased charge backs for local elections, which will certainly increase that part of the budget. The State of New York has imposed on us significantly higher payment rates next year to the state retirement system that increase our contributions from 11% to 16% for municipal employees and 17% to 21% for Police Employees. In addition, the state has mandated the total responsibility of dog licensing to the local municipalities, however has neglected to provide the necessary funding to administer the program.

Faced with all of these adverse circumstances, I feel that this town needs to remain focused and stay fiscally responsible. We are the stewards of your money and you have sent us here with a mandate to show fiscal constraint and wisdom in how the budget is allocated. I am happy to report that my proposed budget makes the necessary cuts, abides by previous contractual obligations not negotiated by this present town board, and does not cause an unnecessary financial levy to the taxpayers of the town. Despite all of the challenges we face, I am able to propose a tax levy for next year that is \$6,000 less or a decrease of 0.19%. I have placed \$15,000 in the budget to finally bring back a town bulk clean up day for next year, which I believe is needed to clean up our town. I have increased the town's road paving budget by \$15,000 so we are able to fix more of our aging infrastructure. I have placed some seed money into our reserve accounts all of which cannot be touched and will accrue overtime. I have been very conservative when computing our revenue estimates and am confident that these totals will reflect our actual bottom line.

It is now up to the Town Board to solidify this budget so we can present a fiscally sound plan to the State Comptroller's office for review. I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks to pass a preliminary budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

KARL A. BRABENEC
Supervisor & Budget Officer