



TOWN OF DEERPARK

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RESOLUTION #34 OF 2011 **Highway Department Restructuring Proposal**

WHEREAS, the Town of Deerpark currently has a Highway Department employing 11 individuals, and

WHEREAS, 2011 payroll and benefit costs total \$1,015,275 which comprises **60%** of the Highway Budget, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Deerpark has 88 miles of road which needs continual maintenance, and

WHEREAS, it takes approximately \$125,000 to pave 1 mile of road, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 General Repairs budget to pave and repair town roads is \$145,000, which is **9%** of the Highway Budget, and

WHEREAS, additional grant money from the Federal and State government to pave roads has and continues to decrease each year, and

WHEREAS, the current Highway Department building, equipment, and trucks are very worn and in desperate need of constant repair and/or replacing, and

WHEREAS, only **6%** of the Highway Budget or \$100,000 is allocated for maintenance or replacement of vehicles and equipment, and

WHEREAS, due to the unexpected flooding in the Spring of 2011, the culvert and bridge on Big Pond Road will need to be replaced as soon as possible costing potentially \$30,000 or more to the taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, annual sales tax revenue to the Highway Budget has decreased due to the bad economy from \$450,000 in 2006 to approximately \$280,000 in 2010, and

WHEREAS, more money is needed for paving, emergency road repairs, snow removal, without burdening the residents and businesses with additional taxes and with the town facing a 2% property tax levy cap from the State of New York.

WHEREAS, the immediate elimination of two positions within the Highway Department, reduction in one position to Part Time, and attrition of one position would generate \$66,189 for the remainder of 2011 and approximately \$115,000 extra per year, starting in 2012, to allocate towards road and equipment maintenance, repair, or replacement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Deerpark Town Board, in the best interests of the Deerpark taxpayers, hereby eliminates two motor equipment operator positions within the Highway Department and reduces the Mechanic position to P/T status (20 hours per week) effective immediately. The specific employees that will be laid off will be at the discretion of the Deerpark Highway Superintendent pursuant to the conditions of the current collective bargaining agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Deerpark Town Board approves the budget transfer of any surplus personnel/benefit costs to the General Repairs .4 line to be used for road repair and maintenance.