



KARL A. BRABENEC, MPA

DEERPARK TOWN SUPERVISOR



“The Supervisor’s Corner: News from Deerpark”

End of the Year Report - 2010

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed already. We have been very busy at town hall making many positive and necessary reforms for the residents.

The 2011 adopted budget has a decrease in the tax levy from 2010 by 0.28% or \$7,600. Despite rising costs in health care, workers compensation rates, retirement contributions and lower revenues, the board was able to accomplish the goal of keeping taxes stable by enacting many cost savings initiatives and monitoring expenses. Some of the highlights of the budget include \$10,000 to explore bringing back a town bulk clean up day, an additional \$15,000 for the town's road paving budget, and we have started to fund reserve accounts for future potential liabilities. The budget also received full approval by the New York State Comptroller’s office.

In the beginning of 2010, we reduced two full time positions within the Supervisor’s and Town Clerk’s offices to part time, saving taxpayers an estimated \$34,000 per year in salary and benefit costs while keeping both offices very efficient. The town board has recently decided to reduce the full time positions of Police Chief, Building Inspector, Assistant Assessor, Highway Secretary, and Buildings and Grounds to part time in 2011. These decisions were very hard to make because it does affect some people personally. However, we need to remember that most revenues, such as mortgage tax and state and federal aid are down dramatically. In addition, all governments are being burdened with rising health care costs, increased retirement contributions, tax-shifting and unfunded mandates from the state and federal governments. It is our opinion that major tax increases are NOT an option going forward and that we need to start trimming back on major government expenses in anticipation of hard economic times. This move will end up saving taxpayers an estimated \$160,000 per year in salary, benefit, retirement, and FICA costs. That’s over \$1,000,000 over a ten year period! We will continue to examine every town department to make sure we are saving taxpayer money and to make sure that government still runs effectively and efficiently.

The town board recently passed a local law creating a Veterans Committee. This committee will be charged with formulating and initiating plans to fund and erect a new Veterans Memorial in the Town of Deerpark. Additionally the committee will assist veterans and their families to take advantage of certain tax exemptions and programs afforded to them by all levels of government. I want to thank the following Veterans for stepping up to the plate to serve on this committee: Floyd Babcock, Colin Tunney, George Keller, Dominick “Tar” Santini, Richard Lee Cornell, Wilbur Wessilus, Dennis W. Simmons, and Tony Zippo. I look forward to working with these gentlemen in the coming months.

There are many boards within the town that you can serve on to assist your neighbors and fellow residents. In January, the town board will be making appointments for various boards which include: Planning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Ethics, Recreation, Veterans, Police Commission, Museum, Community Development, and Cable Commission. If you are interested in serving on one or more of these boards, please submit a letter of interest by December 31st to Town Clerk Flo Santini at PO Box 621, Huguenot, NY 12746 or e-mail at fsantini@townofdeerpark.org.

Until next time, I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and a happy and healthy 2011!