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DEERPARK TOWN SUPERVISOR



"The Supervisor's Corner: News from Deerpark"

August/September 2010 Report

Town Hall remains to be a busy place as we end another wonderful summer and welcome the cool autumn months to the Hudson Valley.

In the beginning of August, I started to work on the tentative budget for 2011. I sent out department head requests and asked for each department to look for cost saving and efficiency measures for next year. I have presented my budget proposal to the Town Board and it calls for a decrease in the tax levy from 2010 by 0.19% or \$6000. This is possible due to the many cost savings initiatives that have been initiated in the previous months and by monitoring costs throughout the past year. 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.

Some of the highlights of the proposed budget include a proposed decrease in the tax levy, \$15,000 to possibly bring back a town bulk clean up day, an additional \$15,000 for the town's road paving budget, \$5000 in most of the reserve accounts, and \$50,000 in contingency. The full council will be reviewing the tentative budget in the coming weeks and will meet again in October to make any changes to the proposal. They will then pass a preliminary budget to send to the New York State Comptroller's office for review.

We continue to make necessary changes to our town's zoning in order to attract new business and rateables. The town board passed Local Law 5, which makes some significant changes to the zoning regulations of the Interchange Business (IB) District within the town. The zone is located right off of Exit 1 on Interstate 84. The new local law amends the current zoning to allow for more permitted uses rather than temporary special uses, which were renewable by the planning board. All permitted uses still require planning board approval and a site plan. In addition, the law has done away with any new special use permit renewals and moves site plan enforcement responsibility to the town's building and code enforcement department. All the changes were reviewed by the Orange County Planning Department and Deerpark Planning Board.

I must also clear up a misconception about the Water and Sewer district proposal for the IB District in the town. Upon construction of such a system, a new special water and sewer district would be created in the town. Only those taxpayers that would directly benefit from the use of the district or those that use the water and sewer would pay for it through their taxes. In other words, if you reside in Huguenot, Sparrowbush, Cuddebackville, Westbrookville, Cahoonzie, or Rio, you will not see any impact on your taxes with the new Water and Sewer district.

On September 11th, the Town held its ninth annual 9/11 Ceremony and dedicated the new memorial at Town Hall. I want to thank all of those involved in the fundraising and planning of this new memorial. We hope that this monument will stand the test of time for hundreds of years to come. It is a beautiful tribute to all those who lost their lives and to all the heroes of our police, fire, and EMS that saved so many others on that horrendous day. We must **NEVER** forget!

We will continue to be busy in the months to come. In October and November, the council will meet to finalize our budget for next year. We will also be considering local laws to create a Veterans Board within the town and to take over Dog Licensing in 2011. I will also be holding a constituent open house in October, so please keep your eye out for the details. Again, you can always get any updates at our web site at www.townofdeerpark.org.

Until next time, I wish you and your family health and happiness.