

Supervisor's Statement

2018 Tentative Budget

The 1.84% property tax cap (Allowable Levy Growth Factor) along with the carryover from our 2017 budget, gave us an additional \$79,742 in tax revenue for this 2018 Town Budget. With Allan's good work on tax parity and our Fire Protection District fees to the three Fire Departments, we have realized another \$37,439 in funds that I used for other expenses. We also realized a potential \$20,000 in salt purchase due to a more favorable contract. My Tentative Budget is \$2,453 under the tax cap.

I was fairly conservative with revenue projections. I did allow for an additional \$20,000 in projected Sales Tax revenue as there was a \$32,000 increase our 2016 budgeted projection. I also increased Cemetery (\$5200) and Recreation/Youth Program (\$19,900) revenue because we had more sales and higher participation.

I recommend that we look at raising some of the fees in our Building and Zoning departments and Cemetery Plot Sales rates to be on par with other similar towns. We will also need to look at raising Recreation Camp Fees in 2018 to compensate for the increase in the minimum wage rate.

Areas of significant increases are:

Assessors Department: I put in \$42,500 for a department restructure which would cover a full time aide with benefits (DBvV), a full time assessor with benefits (TBD @ \$45,000 to start), and two data collectors (JM & WM).

Central Data Processing -\$6400 increase which may be low if we stay with PCA

GF Contingency – up \$12,000 to cover any additions to my budget that the TB may want to make

Zoning – I added a Department Restructure line and funded it with an additional \$34,648. The department, with this increase, would have a full time ZEO (\$50,000) with benefits, and a Secretary to the ZBA has an increase in hours from 14 to 20 hours a week. We may want to consider adding a PT Secretary for a FT ZEO.

Highway – We increased road improvements \$45,000 over last year.

While I am still waiting for final costs, I have estimated increases as follows:

An average of 4% increase in Workers Comp and %4 General Liability Increase. State Retirement is flat again this year.

Health Insurance is another area of increase to impact to the budget and will be discussed further at one of our first budget meetings. The same MVP Silver Plan has

a 10% premium rate increase for 2018, and deductibles went from \$3500 to \$3700 for an individual and \$7000 to 7400 for the doubles and family plan.

This budget reflects a 2% wage increase for full time non-union employees and a \$.50 – \$1.00/hour increase for part time workers – as a continuation the effort to address the wage parity In any case, we can review and salary schedule I used for the budget. I've allowed for a raise at the tax cap (1.84%) for our Collective Bargaining Unit employees. There was no meeting of the minds this year, we will see what next year brings.

I have not included raises for elected officials but want to address this as a board. Town Board, Judges, and Assessors last received a raise in 2008. Town Supervisor had a compensation cut (from \$24,000 to \$20,000), and the Highway Superintendent last received a raise in 2014.

Most department requests were even with 2017 and were able to be funded in the budget or through Capital Projects funds. I encourage you to review all budget worksheets.

Larger Departmental requests not funded:

Kiddy Pool - -\$65,000 to \$75,000 possible grant or General Fund Balance

Utility Truck from Dump body For Maintenance Department \$5,000

Shed and Snow Blower for Cemetery \$3800 - we could fund this with Capital Funds or possibly out of our 2017 budget

Town Wide Revaluation & Re Assessment - \$300,000 - \$400,000. I recommend that we create a line in the Assessors Department and fund it \$35,000 from our fund balance. Next year we will have paid off a lease purchase agreement for a piece of Highway Truck and will have \$22,700 per year that we can use towards a BAN or Bond for the revaluation.

Highway Snow and Ice and Brush Removal

The following is a list of requests not included in the budget. I am recommending that they be paid with Capital Projects funds:

Included is \$20,000/General Fund transfer to Capital, \$41,000 General Fund Contingency and a \$15,000 Part Town Contingency.

This budget uses \$263,607 in funds balances to offset tax increases; \$100,000 General, \$40,00 Part Town, \$10,000 Highway General, and \$110,145 Highway Part Town, and \$3,437 in the Rhinebeck Fire Protection District Fund Balance

Looking ahead to 2018, working with the Village on studying the consolidation of our Highway and Awe should continue to pursue assigning our Town Fire Protection District to the three local Fire Departments, update our employment practices and continue to look for consolidation of services that save tax money; all of which will help with long-term budget management.