



Colts Neck Township Municipal Building

Cedar Drive, Colts Neck, New Jersey

124 Cedar Drive
Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722
Web: www.colts-neck.nj.us
E-mail: twpcn@optonline.net

Phone: (732) 462-5470
Fax: (732) 431-3173
TDD-TYY: (732) 462-6090

2008 BUDGET INTRODUCTION

- The total 2008 Municipal Budget is \$11,040,023, inclusive of \$360,702 in the Dedicated Open Space Fund.
- The budget is \$424,428 above last year's budget, or 4.0 percent.
- The Municipal Purposes Tax will increase from 30.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 33.4 cents, an increase of 2.9 cents.
- For a home assessed at \$400,000, this represents an increase of \$116 for the year for municipal purposes.
- The Dedicated Open Space Tax will remain at 2.5 cents and will generate \$360,702 this year.
- \$4,819,821 will be raised by taxation to support the budget.
- \$2,350,000 of surplus funds will be used to off-set the increase in taxes, leaving some \$800,000 in surplus.
- Significant increases to the budget include the following:
 - The Township's share of pension costs has increased by \$163,801 from \$262,103 to \$425,904.
 - The Township has appropriated the first of five \$81,000 payments for revaluation.
 - The Township has increased the legal budget from \$150,000 to \$175,000, as legal action pertaining to Earle Naval Base and Affordable Housing issues may be required this year.

- Gasoline costs continue to soar, and the appropriation for gasoline has been increased by \$24,000 from \$116,000 to \$140,000.
- Significant decreases to the budget include the following:
 - The Township has benefited from the relatively mild winter, and the snow removal budget has been decreased by \$52,000 from \$229,500 to \$177,500.
 - The debt service budget has been reduced by \$25,432 from \$802,215 to \$776,783, and the general debt ratio of the Township is very good. Of the total debt service budget, \$455,407 will pay down debt principal.
- The budget contains a strong “pay as you go” component that includes the following highlights:
 - \$12,000 for “tot lot” play equipment at Laird Road Park.
 - \$17,000 to resurface the tennis courts at Cedar Drive School.
 - \$25,000 for Scott air-pacs for the Fire Department.
 - \$17,500 for Police portable radios, police car computers and office computers.
 - \$33,000 for various Public Works equipment and improvements.
 - \$15,000 for various Town Hall improvements.
 - \$25,000 to dredge the ponds at Town Hall.
 - \$4,700 for Court House improvements.
 - \$216,000 for paving, drainage and road improvements.
- No new employees have as yet been authorized in the 2008 budget, and the Police Lieutenant position has not been approved. The Police Officer for Colts Neck High School is still under discussion, and a final decision regarding this position has not been made.
- It is important to note that the Township has lost over \$163,000 in State Aid this year. This loss was equal to 1.13 cents of the tax increase.
- The first of five \$81,000 payments for revaluation was equal to another .56 cent of the tax increase.
- The combined impact of the loss of State aid, pension costs and revaluation costs equaled to 2.82 cents of the total tax increase of 2.9 cents. Said more simply, had it not been for these three items alone, the tax rate would have been virtually flat this year.
- The public hearing on the 2008 budget will be held on April 30, 2008, 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall.