

2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
INTRODUCTION
APRIL 28, 2010

- The total 2010 municipal budget is \$11,573,408, inclusive of \$778,228 to be raised by dedicated open space funds.

In 2009, the municipal budget was \$11,175,778, inclusive of \$363,449 raised by dedicated open space funds.

- Please note that the Township Committee fully intends to reduce the 2.5 cent dedicated open space tax; however, the Township Attorney has advised this can only be done by referendum in November. If approved, this tax will be reduced to approximately 1.2 cents in 2011.

The municipal portion of the tax rate will increase by one cent per \$100 of assessed valuation from 16 cents to 17 cents.

For a home assessed at \$800,000, this represents an increase of \$80 in property taxes for the year.

\$2,300,000 of surplus funds have been utilized to support the budget. This includes a school tax deferral of \$800,000. The Township has used all but \$150,000 of surplus funds to offset the tax rate.

- \$5,302,380 will be raised by taxation to support the budget.

The cumulative effect of 4% property tax cap, declining State Aid and the erosion of other revenues have combined to create serious budget challenges for most New Jersey municipalities, and Colts Neck is not immune.

In 2008, the Township lost \$112,740 in State Aid, another \$163,000 last year, and yet another \$217,899 this year, for a total of \$493,639 in three years.

- In response to these challenges, most operating budgets have been reduced by 5% on average. Advisory boards and committees have been significantly reduced, as have donations to the First Aid Squad, Sports Foundation and the Senior Citizens Club.

Non-union employees will not receive a raise this year, and the stipend for

Township Committeemembers has been reduced.

Certain amenities, such as fireworks and the Community Band, remain funded, but costs for these events will be offset by revenues. Clean-up day has been reduced to one day to save money.

Increases to the budget include snow removal (up \$77,500) Police dispatching (up \$26,642), Insurance (up \$29,600) and statutory expenses (up \$33,697).

Capital expenditures are an exception to the 4% property tax levy, and funds have been appropriated for the following on a "pay as you go" basis:

- \$32,000 for a marked Police 4WD vehicle.
- \$28,000 for Police computers, portable radios, cameras and copy machine.
- \$15,000 for road improvements, such as minor drainage projects, road striping or road repair.
- \$11,050 to refurbish playground equipment, improve Bucks Mill and Five Point Parks, improve the Recreation building and improve a donated school bus.
- \$25,000 to upgrade all public buildings.
- \$25,000 to purchase Scott Air Pacs or turn-out gear for the Fire Department.

The Township Committee thanks those residents that attended all or some of the six budget sessions needed to prepare the budget.

In nine years, this has been the longest review conducted. Normally 24 hours are expended this year 40+ hours were expended.

The public hearing for the 2010 municipal budget will be held on May 26, 2010, 7:30

p.m. at Town Hall.

Township
Committee
04/28/2010

I am here on behalf of the 22 members of the Colts Neck Twp. PBA. I am asking the residents of this township to call upon the township committee to stop these layoffs. We have attempted to convince the township committee about the safety concerns which will affect the town by laying off an officer and also not replacing a second officer in 2011. The loss of these two officers will severely affect the operation of this police department and can potentially delay patrol response time to

emergency calls and cost the town more money in overtime and training.

The township committee was willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in fighting the housing at NWS Earle because of the potential security threat and now they are reducing the police department which will affect the security of the town. A recent FBI study showed that police departments in the Northeast have a ratio of 2.7 sworn law enforcement officer's per thousand residents. Based on the two thousand census, there were over 12,000 residents in this town which means our police department should have had over 32 officers. After only four months of calls for service in 2010 we are already 379 calls above

where we were at this same point in 2009. The township committee has already determined that this is the only way forward, I now ask you on behalf of the safety of myself and my fellow officers as well as yours to

voice your opinion.