

Dear Town of Bergen Neighbors,

It has come to the Board's attention that postcards were recently mailed to residents regarding the upcoming **Budget Hearing/Levy Approval** scheduled for **Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM**. We'd like to take this opportunity to clarify the purpose of the meeting and provide some important context.

Yes, it is true that we are proposing an increase to the town levy. Here's why:

In 2024, the previous Town Board approved a **\$145,000 loan** to reconstruct a portion of **Moon Road**. The current Board is now responsible for repaying that loan, beginning in **March 2026**, over a **5-year term**. The annual repayment, including principal and interest, will be **\$34,622**.

To ensure we can meet this obligation **without compromising our ongoing road maintenance and improvement plans**, we are proposing to increase the levy. This will allow us to continue with our **2-year road improvement plan**, while still funding essential services such as:

- Road maintenance
- Fire district fees
- Town hall loan payments
- Equipment upkeep

Important Clarifications:

- The proposed levy increase is **26%**, **not 35%** as some materials may have suggested.
- This translates to an estimated **\$38 increase per \$100,000 of assessed value** on the **Town of Bergen** portion of your tax bill.
- This is **not** a 26% increase on your **entire** tax bill.
- The increase is **not permanent**.

We encourage all residents to attend the **Budget Hearing/Levy Approval** to ask questions, share feedback, and learn more about how this proposal supports the long-term health and safety of our town's infrastructure.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to improve the roads and services in the Town of Bergen.

Sincerely,

The Town of Bergen Board