

Supervisor's Report

The months since this Town Board took office in January 2020 have been tumultuous. The Board has been confronted with both a pandemic and a proposal to build a utility scale solar project.

In spite of the challenges we are proud of what we have accomplished. We have worked collaboratively. We have built consensus. Individual board members have worked hard (Deputy Supervisor Wolf spearheaded the Town's response on the solar project and worked countless hours keeping all of us informed and represented; Stosh Gansowski has been proactive in working with our new code enforcement officer to enforce zoning, and initiate court action where necessary, he has also worked closely with NYSEG to fix streetlights, get refunds, and ultimately to have our lights replaced with LED lights; Terry Sullivan has been active with the Summer Music Program and the Park Commission; Jeffrey Judd did our internal audit and assisted in our negotiations with the Union.) We are proud that we created an Economic Development Advisory Committee; we applied for and received a Local Champions grant and formed a Climate Task Force; we created a new Historic Preservation Committee; an adhoc committee is planning a new historic display for the walls of Town Hall and the Rheinstrom Room is already redecorated ; we are working to redesign our Website; we became a Purple Heart Town, we switched from an old payroll system to ADP; we switched our bookkeeping to a new system; we hired a new accountant, and a new attorney; we hired a new Dog Control Officer and a new Code Enforcement Officer; we installed a light on the flagpole in front of Town Hall, we resurfaced the Town Hall parking lot- and now we are ready to plan for the Town's Bicentennial. And as of tonight, we have an OWL.

So now we are about to vote on a 2022 budget which we see as the next step in our effort to make our Town Government as responsive and efficient as possible.

When we drafted last year's budget it was a precarious time. With the pandemic raging, no one could predict what would happen financially. We took a very cautious approach to the 2021 budget.

Now looking at the past 12 months we can see that sales tax has not decreased. Nor has mortgage tax. Both are well over the budgeted amount. And when we take a hard look at the budget we see that the actual amounts received, in both mortgage tax and sales tax, are substantially higher than projected and have been for many years.

Goals for the 2022 Budget

We have proposed a 2022 Budget which is both transparent and realistic. First, we are using a new format suggested by our accountant Robert Patterson CPA which is both streamlined and easy to navigate. Now the expenses and revenue of every department are easy to track.

Second, we have tried to make our budget realistic. By accurately projecting revenue and appropriations we are able to address several issues **without raising taxes**.

Overview of 2022 Budget

A major goal of this 2022 budget is to equip our Town Government to be professional, responsive and effective. Toward that end we are increasing the wages of Town employees so that we can fairly compensate and maintain the excellent team we have now. And we are putting money in the budget so that in 2022 we can consider hiring an administrative assistant for the Town. This was suggested in the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2011 and is a strategy used in other Towns in the County.

Another concern which the Town Board wants to address is cyber security. We will be considering changing our email provider to a system which would be more professional and more secure. With that in mind we have increased the line for central data contractual.

For a more complete explanation of the budget go to [insert link](#) to view the budget and [insert link](#) to see the Executive Summary.

The Town is in very solid financial shape. Our budget decisions have been fiscally prudent. Our 2020 AUD, which is posted on the Town website shows we have substantial reserves in addition to Fund Balance. In our continuing efforts to be transparent, the Town Board recently voted to post monthly Budget to Actual Reports on the website. The Reports are clear and easy to read. We understand that we are accountable to the taxpayers.

The 2022 Budget demonstrates our continued commitment to provide taxpayers with a Town Government which is efficient, effective and transparent.

Jeanne E. Mettler
Supervisor