



Village of Tivoli, NY
Mayor
Bryan F. Cranna

Tivoli Adopts 2011-2012 Operating Budget With 0% Property Tax Increase

Tivoli... Calling it a fiscally sound, responsible, but tight budget, Village of Tivoli Mayor Bryan F. Cranna announced today that the Tivoli Board of Trustees adopted the 2011-2012 operating budget with a 0% property tax increase on April 20th.

Mayor Cranna stated, "This budget was adopted after lengthy discussions with the budget officer, treasurer, trustees, department heads, and myself. Realizing the need to be conservative with regards to spending, all focused on only the essentials that are needed to continue providing the vital services that are necessary to move the village forward. This is a tight budget"

Cranna continued, "While spending is up in certain areas such as emergency equipment for the fire department, parks and recreation, employee salaries, as well as retirement and health care benefits, village officials exercised a great deal of discretion with regards to the budget. In addition, the Trustees, Budget Officer, and I voted to decrease our own salaries by 20% to offset other costs. When possible certain services that were once outsourced will be addressed in house by village personnel rather than contracting out. This will keep tax dollars in the Village of Tivoli where they belong."

To address vital and required needs of Tivoli's DPW facility, refurbishing existing wells, as well as upgrading Tivoli's water meter system, the Village is considering an increase in water and sewer user fees. These increases are necessary to maintain and significantly improve Tivoli's existing water and sewer services. The Board of Trustees plans to vote on new user fees on May 18th following a public hearing. The average household will see a 7% increase in water and sewer rates.

Susan Ezrati, Trustee and Budget Officer of the Village of Tivoli, said of the budget, "My goal in working with the Treasurer to create a budget for this coming fiscal year, was to keep real property taxes unchanged. Recognizing that other sources of revenue such as mortgage taxes and sales tax revenue were not likely to rise in this environment, we proposed a very tight budget to the Board. Setting spending goals required keeping a balance between adequately compensating Village employees and staff and avoiding increased real property tax rates. We did increase some revenue streams; however, by making sure that the user rate matched the cost of delivering a specific service. For example, we have raised the charge for garbage tags and for water and sewer rents."

Cranna lauded Ezrati and Village Treasurer Linda Gonnella for their efforts in preparing the budget. "Both worked diligently to prepare this budget and took their responsibilities seriously."

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