



## TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH

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# News Release

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## **Township Adopts 2016 Municipal Budget Under the 2% Cap and with No Change to the Tax Rate** *6<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year – No Exceptions Taken – Resulting in \$284,311 Taxpayer Savings*

Hillsborough Township adopted the 2016 municipal budget at Tuesday's Township Committee meeting, which for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row came in under the 2% levy cap.

"As mentioned when this budget was introduced, the 2016 fiscally responsible budget has once again come in below the 2% tax levy, which has been our practice since the 2011 introduction of the 2% levy cap and this measure saves our Hillsborough taxpayers \$284,311," stated Mayor Frank DelCore during his comments regarding the budget.

The 2016 budget saw a decrease in spending for snow removal, as a result of the mild winter. Another line item that saw a significant decrease for 2016 was the Public Safety salaries, which decreased by \$73,000, as a result of the attrition of senior officers in the department. On the other hand, mandated pension contributions increased along with salary and wages which are contractual obligations through the collective bargaining agreements. There was an increase of \$100,000 into the Capital Improvement Fund to be used in future years as part of the Township's Pay As You Go Program for routine capital purchases.

Non-tax revenue for 2016 also increased as a result of license, application fee increases, coupled with increased UCC fees, application fees and interest on delinquent taxes. Another favorable revenue factor is the inter-local shared services addition of the Manville Court System.

The Township saw an increase in the total ratable value for 2016 of \$106 million, which increases the tax base over which the tax levy is distributed. “This increase in ratable values helps to hold the municipal property tax flat for 2016, by providing more dollars over which the tax levy can be dispersed,” stated Chief Financial Officer Nancy Costa.

As has been the practice of the Township, allowable exceptions over the 2% levy cap which for the 2016 budget could have added \$284,311 to the tax levy, were not utilized in order to reduce the tax impact on Township residents. Available exceptions include pension obligation increases, deferred charges to future taxation, health insurance increases and increase in debt service and capital improvement appropriations.

“If the Township were to take advantage of the allowable exceptions and exceed the 2% levy cap, the taxpayers would have incurred an additional \$284,311 in taxes. As Mayor DelCore previously stated for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the municipal budget comes in below the 2% tax levy cap while receiving no State aid. Despite this fact, we are able to hold the tax rate flat, meaning no increase in the municipal tax rate for Hillsborough,” added Deputy Mayor Carl Suraci, Chair and Liaison to the Finance Committee.

“The task of balancing a municipal budget, while remaining under the 2% cap is never an easy task, however, by our continued business-like approach to government and managing taxpayer dollars in a fiscally prudent way, we are able to achieve a balanced budget,” concluded Mayor Frank DelCore.

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