

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN 2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRESENTED

Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine filed his 2017 Tentative Operating Budget with the Town Clerk last evening [Sep 29], presenting the spending plan at the beginning of the Town Board meeting.

The structurally balanced Budget holds the line on taxes and spending within the cost of living. The 2017 Budget complies with the New York State Tax Cap, Brookhaven's Spending Cap and Debt Cap, increases snow removal funding by 4.9% and contains no layoffs or cuts in service.

In addition, the plan maintains increases for Public Safety, Code Enforcement, Assessment and Audit & Controls made in last year's Budget.

"Through hard work and diligent attention to detail, my administration has been able to improve Brookhaven Town's credit rating by Standard & Poor's Global Ratings to AAA. This Budget continues that effort to put Brookhaven's fiscal house in order, despite the challenge of an unprecedented low New York State Tax Cap of 0.68%. The 2017 Tentative Operating Budget continues the implementation of my Three Point Plan and strategic financial goals established in 2012 to achieve structural balance: reduce the burden of debt, increase non-property tax revenues, and maintain minimum fund balance requirements," said Supervisor Romaine.

"The Capital Budget continues my commitment to fund critical public improvement projects to provide constituent services, minimize future costs, and enhance revenue growth," said Supervisor Romaine.

Highlights of the 2017 Tentative Operating Budget include:

- Complies with the New York State Tax Cap;
- Complies with the Town's Tax Rate and Spending Caps, Debt Management Policy and Fund Balance Policy;
- Uses no surplus to balance the budget in both General Funds and the Part Town Highway Fund;
- Reduces the Use of Surplus in Full Town Highway and Street Lighting Funds by 51.6%;
- Keeps user fees flat for Refuse Removal and Recycling Services;
- Lowers Town Wide Spending, excluding Employee Compensation & Benefits, by \$1.6 million, or 1.04%;
- Increases the 2017 Snow Removal Budget for the third year in a row, to \$5.9 million; and
- Increases Assessment staff and resources to improve timeliness, accuracy and fairness.

A special Town Board Public Hearing to discuss the 2017 Budget is scheduled for Thursday, November 10 at 5:00 in the 2nd floor auditorium at Town Hall.

The 2017 Tentative Budget is available for review on the [Town Website](#).