



*******PLANDOME HEIGHTS – NEWS*******

**Plandome Heights Holds Annual Meeting
Trustees Approve Budget for 2019 -20;
Tax Increase is Below the Tax Cap
Village Makes Changes to Three Laws**

April 1, 2019 – The Trustees of the Village of Plandome Heights gathered at their Village Hall on April 1, 2019 for the Annual Organization Meeting of the Village. In addition to required business such as swearing-in, professional retentions, service agreements, policy approvals and appointment, the Trustees conducted a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019. The Tentative Budget has been publicly available since it was published on March 15, 2019. The Trustees voted to adopt the Tentative Budget with no changes affecting the overall Tentative Budget. The Adopted Budget complies with the Tax Cap. Further discussion of the Budget follows below.

In addition to the Budget, Public Hearings were held on three matters. In one Public Hearing, the Village proposed changes to Village Code to set forth the terms and conditions for the use of wireless 5G on the village right-of-way. Such terms and conditions were drafted to conform with federal telecommunications policy and permits the Village certain latitude in locating 5G nodes and charging fees for the use of the right-of-way. Another Public Hearing addressed changes to our building policies to make it easier for residents who perform minor modifications that do not affect the structure of the home. The third Public Hearing was to consider eliminating the requirement for a periodic survey by a certified arborist of trees on the village right-of-way. In each instance comments were received and no action was taken pending a short period to permit any additional comments.

Commenting on the meeting, Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica said, “The Village is fortunate to have a terrific Board who care deeply about providing current services, planning for our future and serving resident concerns. We passed a budget that is responsive to our needs and addressed new laws that will benefit our residents.”

A discussion of the Adopted Budget follows.

Revenues – The Tentative Budget calls for total revenues of \$478,300, a 2.4% increase over \$467,100 which includes: (a) non-property tax revenues of \$129,300, a (0.7)% decrease over \$130,100 in the prior year budget, and (b) property tax revenues of \$349,000, a 3.5% increase over \$337,000 in the prior year budget. The 2019 – 2020 property tax increase of 3.5% is within our Village Property Tax Cap because the current year cap includes a 1.7% “growth factor” in addition to the 2% inflation factor.

Expenditures - The 2019 – 2020 Tentative Budget calls for expenditures of \$474,300 which is a 1.5% increase in costs compared to the 2019 – 2020 Budget of \$467,100. The Village’s sanitation costs are the largest single cost increase followed by modest increases in other costs.

Commentary - Commenting on the Tentative Budget, Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica said: “Our Tentative Budget continues our practice of *low and stable* property taxes as well as

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

Daniel Cataldo
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Gus Panopoulos
Dianne Sheehan
Alvin Solomon
Norman Taylor
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Arlene Drucker
Clerk - Treasurer

Elizabeth Vera Koubi
Deputy Clerk, Building

Lenore “Lee” Regan
Court Clerk

Cye E. Ross, Esq.
Village Justice

Mary Breen Corrigan
Village Prosecutor

Edward P. Butt, AIA
Village Building
Inspector Stormwater
Mgmt. Officer

Bart Giusto
Emergency Mgmt.
Coordinator

Maryann Grieco
Architectural Review
Board, Chair

James Madison
Planning Board, Chair

Eugene O’Connor
Zoning and Appeals
Board, Chair

Trey Harragan
Technology Advisory
Board, Chair



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Plandome Heights

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compliance with the Tax Cap. With an unusually high Tax Cap this year, we decided to take advantage of that opportunity to budget a surplus to help us offset risks from the State to our state aid and our continuing infrastructure work on roads.

For perspective, after this increase:

- We will comply with the Tax Cap for 2019 – 20,
- Our taxes will be 2.3% lower than they were 10 years ago,
- Our average annual tax increase for the last 10 years (since we cut taxes) will be 1.5%,
- Our tax advantage vs. outside the Village will continue to be 33% (\$535/year) lower. This annual advantage, over 10 years, is \$5,000+ of savings to each household.

The Village is fortunate to have skilled volunteers on our Board who deliver these results.”

Further information available - The Adopted Budget, complete with a message from the Mayor and detailed various analyses, is contained on the Village website at www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finances .

Contact: Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica, Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov