



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF  
**Plandome Heights**

37 Orchard Street, Manhasset, New York 11030

Tel: (516) 627-1136

[www.plandomeheights-ny.gov](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov)

April 27, 2021

Dear Residents,

In my April 6, 2021 letter to residents, I shared with you the changes the Trustees were considering to the Village's Tentative Budget for 2021 - 22. That budget called for a 2.8% tax increase (which is lower than our tax cap of 3.3%). I told residents that we were considering lowering the proposed tax increase to zero, from 2.8%, or perhaps even a small tax decrease. The reasons for this were the following:

- Our current budget generates surplus which we need to fund our 10-year Capital Plan,
- By eliminating the Village Hall project from possible capital needs, our capital position is adequate as it stands and the need to generate surplus is diminished in the short-term.
- Residents suggested that we should consider lower taxes.

Over the past days and weeks, we have studied the matter, consulted with the Village Attorney, the Village Independent Auditor and with our colleagues locally and in Albany. What we learned was that the best way to deal with these facts is to take a "pause" from adding to our surplus at this time.

As such, at our Village meeting last night, I recommended and the Trustees approved that we eliminate the 2.8% proposed tax increase for this year and, with rounding, we end up with a nominal tax decrease (less than one percent). What this will do is "bend the curve" of our tax levy as we have done successfully in the past (in 2011).

As we make progress on work in our Capital Plan in 2021 -22 this year, the work will help us clarify the actual needs of, and resources for, the plan. With that knowledge, we can reassess conditions again next year.

I appreciate the interest and input from residents that helped us get to this outcome. I think it leaves the Village in a continued strong financial position while providing some relief. And it is consistent with our financial principles of "Low and Stable Taxes" and "Planning Beyond One Year." The budget, as adopted, is on our website.

Sincerely,  
INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS

Kenneth C. Riscica, Mayor

Enc. April 26, 2016 Village Press Release on Adopted Budget

**Kenneth C. Riscica**  
Mayor

**Daniel Cataldo**  
**Silva Ferman**  
**Gus Panopoulos**  
**Dianne Sheehan**  
**Alvin Solomon**  
**Norman Taylor**  
Trustees

**Arlene Drucker**  
Clerk -Treasurer

**Lisa Fanuka**  
Deputy Clerk

**Katherine Hannon**  
Court Clerk  
Special Projects  
Associate

**Cye E. Ross, Esq.**  
Village Justice

**Mary Breen Corrigan**  
Prosecutor

**Edward P. Butt, RA, AIA**  
Building Inspector  
Stormwater Mgmt.  
Officer

**Bart Giusto**  
Emergency Mgmt.  
Coordinator

**Maryann Grieco**  
Architectural Review  
Board, Chair

**Eugene O'Connor**  
Zoning and Appeals  
Board, Chair

**James Madison**  
Planning Board, Chair

**Trey Harragan**  
Technology Advisory  
Board, Chair



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\*\*\*\*\*PLANDOME HEIGHTS – NEWS\*\*\*\*\*

**Plandome Heights Adopts Budget for 2021 - 22;  
Zero Percent Tax Increase**

**April 26, 2021** – On April 26, 2021 the Trustees of the Village of Plandome Heights approved the Budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022 (now, the “Adopted Budget”). A Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget was held on Monday, April 5, 2021 at the Village Annual Meeting.

Our budget principles include “Low and Stable Taxes” and “Planning Beyond One Year.” Through strong management plus the good fortune of three mild winters in a row, our need to generate surplus to support our 10-year Capital Plan is diminished in the short term. As such, while our allowable Tax Cap is approximately 3.3% for 2021 - 22, and we had proposed a tax increase of 2.8%, we decided not to increase taxes at all for 2021 -22. In fact, with rounding, there is a small tax decrease (less than one percent). By not raising taxes, we “bend the curve” of our taxes in the short term. Taxes in the Village remain below the taxes for the same services outside the Village. This is due to the extensive volunteers and use of “best practices” in financial planning.

Revenues – The Tentative Budget for 2021 - 2022 calls for total revenues of \$477,600, a 0.4% increase over \$475,600 in the prior year which includes: (a) non-property tax revenues of \$122,600, a 2% increase over \$120,100 in the prior year budget, and (b) property tax revenues of \$355,000, a -0-% increase over \$355,500 in the prior year budget. A portion of our unused tax cap can be carried over for use in 2022 – 23, or later years.

Expenditures - The 2021 – 2022 Tentative Budget calls for expenditures of \$488,100 which is a 2.6% increase in costs compared to the 2020 – 2021 Budget of \$475,600. The Village’s sanitation costs are nearly 33% of the increase and there are other modest increases in costs.

Commentary - Commenting on the Tentative Budget, Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica said: “Our practice of *low and stable* property taxes and *planning beyond one year* causes us to “take a pause” on tax increases this year. This will “bend the curve” of our tax increase trend while we take a pause in adding to our capital surplus. Our Tax Cap is 3.3% this year and a portion of that can be carried over in case we need it in a future year.”

For perspective:

- We will not increase taxes for 2021 – 22,
- Our taxes will be lower than they were 12 years ago in 2010,
- Our average annual tax increase for the last 12 years will be less than 1.0%,
- Our tax advantage vs. outside the Village will continue to be significant.

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

Further information available - Village website at [www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finances](http://www.plandomeheights-ny.gov/finances) .

Contact: Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica, [Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov](mailto:Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov)

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