



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights

37 Orchard Street, Manhasset, New York 11030
Tel: (516) 627-1136 Fax: (516) 627 1393
www.plandomeheights-ny.gov

Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

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

Mary Hauck
Kristina Lobosco
Florence Musalo
Trustees elect

Arlene Drucker
Clerk - Treasurer

Kathryn Gross
Deputy Clerk

Katherine Hannon
Deputy Clerk, Court &
Building

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

Eugene O'Connor
Zoning and Appeals
Board, Chair

Trey Harragan
Technology Advisory
Board, Chair

March 31, 2022

Dear Residents –

Once again, there is no better place to be on the first Monday of April than the Annual Meeting of the Village of Plandome Heights! We have a lot to do at the annual meeting, as usual.

This year, new Town Supervisor Jenn DeSena will swear-in our new Trustees elect, Mary Hauck, Kristina Lobosco and Florence Musalo. So that will be fun. After the swearing in we will: (a) provide a brief “year in review” of activities, (b) provide an overview of our proposed Tentative Budget, (c) conduct a Public Hearing for input from residents on our Tentative Budget, (d) address current business and (e) approve various annual policy matters such as investment policy, emergency management policy, procurement policy, etc.

On the Tentative Budget, this year I added benchmarking of our costs. I used 4 “comparable” Villages. We “hit it out of the park” on the majority of our costs. And on taxes, we find that we have the lowest taxes in Nassau County for operating Villages. Lowest in the County! And still \$500/yr. below the ‘Town Outside Village’ taxes, \$5,000 in your pocket in 10 years.

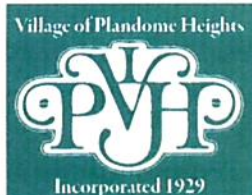
Our “Planning Beyond One Year” process includes SWOT planning (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) which causes us to focus on the future and our attention is on: (a) inflation, (b) occupancy, (c) human resources and (d) technology.

As these challenges and opportunities come into sharper focus over the coming months, and as our capital plan concludes, we are holding the proposed tax increase to an average of \$15/year per home. Essentially, “do no harm.” Having strong balance sheet reserves permits us to smooth things out and make adjustments over time as changes come into clearer focus.

Looking ahead, we will no longer enjoy the favorable rent we negotiated over the last 13 years and we need more space. Our Building Department activity alone is up 160% since we took the current space in 2008; 160%! Other activities and state mandates also add to our space needs. So, we are expecting our occupancy costs to go up significantly in the next three years. By identifying this now, ahead of time, we can begin to develop a plan to address it. That plan will involve (a) community input and (b) all options on the table (rent, own, share, condo, barge or whatever). I will be looking for residents to volunteer for a Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Occupancy, just like the new Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Digital Records, once our road construction is done. Several have already volunteered.

And, once our road construction is done in a few months, and all the bills are paid and all the grant money is collected, then we will have the opportunity to address our remaining reserve funds and our future needs and challenges with more information and in a thoughtful manner.

The Finances page of our website contains extensive, transparent, information on our finances including; (a) the Tentative Budget (7 pages), (b) Tentative Budget Press Release (1 page), (c) my “Tentative Budget Message” containing highlights of our SWOT analysis and benchmarking (7 pages), (d) my July 12, 2021 report which includes balance sheet reserve analysis (5 pages) and (d) historical information going back years. Full transparency.



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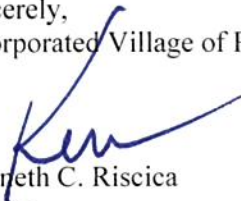
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I am so excited about this pivotal time in the Village. We promised you that we would maintain a strong balance sheet, keep our taxes low and stable and keep this a premier and sought-after Village. Thanks to you, we have the Team, Tools and Treasury to do the things that need to be done, in a relaxed manner, over time with full inclusion of the residents who care to contribute in a positive way to the future for the Village (we welcome volunteers!).

Sincerely,
Incorporated Village of Plandome Heights


Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

Highlights of Mayor Riscica's April 4, 2022 Tentative Budget presentation

We "Plan Beyond One Year" to achieve low and stable taxes. Looking ahead we see challenges and opportunities in occupancy, inflation, human resources and technology. We will face them straight on and early, and with a strong balance sheet to meet any challenge.

This year we did some benchmarking and find that:

Our Taxes:

- Our taxes remain 33% lower than our nearest comparable, the Town, "Outside Village" set of taxes (saving you \$500/year on average, \$5,000 over 10 years,
- Our taxes are the lowest operating taxes in Nassau County except for two villages with half our population and
- At the NY State level, Villages with our tax load have 65% lower median gross income than our residents.

By any measure our tax levy is frugal.

To benchmark our costs, we compared our costs to 4 villages with similar populations, similar area and similar charters: Plandome Manor, Baxter Estates, Roslyn Harbor & Saddle Rock.

On costs:

- Our snow removal costs are **63% below** our comparable villages*,
- Our sanitation costs are **23% below** our comparable villages*,
- Our human resources are **41% below** our comparable villages,
- Our benefits are about **78% below** our comparable villages and
- Our occupancy costs are **55% below** one village (all others own, not rent).

These costs comprise the majority of our Tentative Budget (over 70%). By, any measure our cost control is strong.

See our Finances page at www.plandomeheights-ny.gov for analysis and content.

* Special thanks to Trustee Norman Taylor for his experience in these areas.