



## **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

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**Susan Martinez** Deputy Clerk

Katherine Hannon Deputy Clerk - Court

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**Trey Harragan**Technology Advisory
Board, Chair

Mary Gabriel Historian March 5, 2024

## 2024 – 2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET - MESSAGE

Fellow Taxpayers:

It is my pleasure to report that our Village is in *great shape* fiscally and physically.

On March 4, 2024 the Trustees approved our Tentative Budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025. The "headlines" are:

- ✓ Our tax increase, 2.4%, is below our tax cap of 2.6% and represents approximately \$24.50/year for the average resident despite inflation reported to us by NY State of 4.4%,
- ✓ We continue to have the lowest Village taxes in Nassau County\* and are 33% less than the same services in the Town; further our tax increases have averaged 1.5%/year for 13 years,
- ✓ We continue to be impacted by inflation and scarce human resources and our occupancy costs will increase significantly when our lease expires in July 2025 (after the budget year),
- ✓ We are able to keep the tax increase below our cost increases because:
  - We Plan Beyond One Year in order to keep taxes low and stable,
  - o Long-term contracts for occupancy, sanitation and snow removal stabilize our costs,
  - We recently raised fees, not taxes, to absorb higher costs of our building department,
  - We have significant, non-recurring, interest income and building fees that cushion our costs and turns into surplus capital we need to address our occupancy issues in 2025.
- Our taxes must keep up with our costs in an orderly way.

A note about occupancy. Our occupancy costs will increase significantly in the 2025 - 2026 Budget year, or sooner. The rate increases will be significant and since we need more space that will add to the increase. We continue to (i) explore all alternatives including purchase and (ii) accumulate capital to address the situation. A comprehensive discussion of the issues of Occupancy (cost increases expected, space analysis, alternatives, needs and more) is on our website at Village Hall | Village of Plandome Heights – (plandomeheights-ny.gov).

Residents can participate in our budget process by attending the Public Hearing on the Budget on Monday, April 1, 2024 at the Village Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall, or by sending in comments.

The Tentative Budget and related analyses will be on the Finances page of our website and available in Village Hall. Your comments, questions and complaints are cheerfully accepted.

Sincerely,

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS

Kenneth C. Riscica

Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov

\* Excludes two villages with half our population and one that operates on endowment, not taxes.