



From the Desk of

Jack Conway

East Greenbush Town Supervisor

Yesterday it was my privilege to present the 2017 Tentative Budget to the Town Board. I believe it's a fair document that will allow us to effectively provide essential Town services while maintaining an approach that is fiscally prudent and safeguards the use of taxpayer funds. Revenue projections are conservative with no increases projected for the County Sales Tax or the State Aid Mortgage Tax. The amount of total taxes to be levied is \$9,043,857.00, a tax increase of 0.9%. This tax increase keeps us substantially below the New York State Property Tax Cap.

The 2017 Tentative Budget includes funding for:

Accounting software and audits;

- License Plate Reader, Radar Trailer and two new vehicles for the Police Department;
- 5 new positions for DPW – one in the Water Department, two at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, two in the Highway Department (one mechanic);
- \$500,000 for the Luther Road sidewalk project; this is taken from fund balance in the General Fund with the understanding that 80% of the costs of this project will be reimbursed by the State of New York;
- Repayment of \$683,794 in inter-fund borrowing from the General Fund;
- New Police and CSEA contract settlements;
- Security windows for the Receiver of Taxes and Town Clerk's offices;

For the first time, GEIS fees that have been collected since December 2015 are described separately on the Analysis of Fund Balance page. Funds for the Ambulance District have been held constant pending the negotiation of a new contract with the W.F. Bruen Rescue Squad. The salaries of elected officials remain the same with the exception of a 6.7% increase for the Town Justices. The Town Justices have not received a raise since 2007 despite a significant increase in their caseload since then.

The Tentative Budget was prepared by the Town Supervisor, Director of Finance and the Town Comptroller. The next step in the budget process is for the Town Board as a whole to assess the Tentative Budget, make changes and prepare the Preliminary Budget. The Preliminary

Budget will be put before residents in a Public Hearing. The Town Board will then prepare the Final Budget and approve it at the November 16th Town Board meeting.

The Tentative Budget is available through the link below.

[2017 Tentative Budget](#)