



Township Of Mahwah

Municipal Offices: 475 Corporate Drive
P.O. Box 733 • Mahwah, NJ 07430
Tel: 201-529-5757
Fax: 201-529-0061

Office of Administration
Mayor William C. Laforet

Township Council
Council Pres., Robert Hermansen

Joint Statement of Mayor William Laforet and Council President Rob Hermansen upon the Final Adoption of the 2017 Township of Mahwah Municipal Budget on Thursday, April 20, 2017

"We are pleased to report that the Township Council adopted the 2017 Municipal Budget this evening. This year's budget of \$39.3M continues our municipal tax rate as the lowest in the region, protects our AAA credit rating, supports our leading municipal services, and undertakes an important new initiative in the replacement of our public safety communications system with state-of-the-art, digital technology.

Presented by the Administration to the Council at their February 23 meeting, the budget proposed a modest, tax increase of \$52.24 annually or \$4.35 per month for the average home assessed at \$474,945. The tax rate increase is 2.86%. While the final budget maintains that increase, the Council, working with the Administration, implemented strategic cuts in certain areas, in an effort to direct more dollars into the upgrading of our public-safety radio communications, our highest capital priority for 2017. As a result, the two-year, \$1.75M program originally envisioned, will be completed in one year allowing the Township to capture almost \$400,000 in savings available to us by combining our equipment purchases.

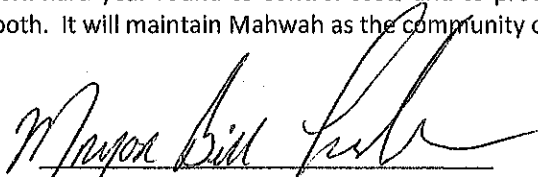
Capital priorities also include replacing a number of aged pieces of equipment for our DPW. These purchases will help us save on repair costs while making operations more efficient. As with other years, we are directing \$1M into road projects to maintain a safe and comfortable travel experience for residents and visitors.

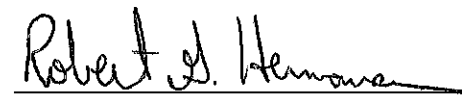
Other budget priorities include the replacement of five (5) police cars, the purchase of a Rescue Pumper for our Fire Department (replacing an engine dating to 1999), the replacement of turnout gear for our firefighters, and dive equipment for our Dive Team.

A service enhancement that emerged from our budget discussions this year will begin this weekend with new, extended hours at our recycling centers for the balance of the Spring. Through the end of June, residents will be able to visit our centers between the hours of 8 am and 3 pm to facilitate their Spring cleanup chores. Similar hours are being considered for the Fall season.

Congratulations to our CFO Kenneth Sesholtz, our Administrator Quentin Wiest, our Directors, staff, and the leadership of our volunteer organizations and Boards for their support in the development of this year's document. Budget hearings were collegial and designed to create informed dialogue leading to smart decisions.

We work hard year round to control costs and to protect our taxpayers' investment. This is a solid budget that does both. It will maintain Mahwah as the community of 'first choice' now and in the future."


Mayor William Laforet


Council President, Robert Hermansen