

2017 BUDGET MESSAGE

To the Residents of the Borough of Woodbine:

As Mayor, I am pleased to submit the Woodbine Municipal Budget for 2017.

Both myself and the governing body have worked with the Borough's Chief Financial Officer to ensure that State mandates are fully complied with while assuring fiscal responsibility and employing best practices to stay under the 2% Levy Cap.

The Borough Council, and its Revenue and Finance Committee, are recommending this year's spending plan which calls for a local purpose tax rate of \$0.234, which is the same as 2016, and as a result, for the 27th consecutive year the local purpose tax rate has not increased. The municipality has now positioned itself to have one of the lowest Local Purpose Tax rates in the County. This means that a property assessed at \$100,000.00 would pay \$234.00 in Local Purpose tax.

Our 2017 budget calls for a total spending plan of \$2,478,145.00 (excluding Federal and State Grants) and includes the budgets for the Woodbine Municipal Utilities Authority and Woodbine Airport Authority, which have been dissolved, and are now utility departments within the Borough budget.

This budget maintains the ongoing level of services and programs that Borough residents have received in past years.

This budget does not include pending grant applications. There is a greater need than ever to attempt to secure increasingly competitive State and Federal funding, given that State aid has remained flat.

The Borough collects a total tax levy of approximately \$2,600,000. Of that amount the Borough retains only \$412,000.00, which is approximately 16% of the total. Thus, only 16 cents out of every tax dollar collected remains in the Borough.

Our ratable base remained stable during 2016. Our tax collection rate remained stable as well, due to the diligent practices of our tax collection office.

As in 2015, we had no "audit findings" in 2016, showing that our fiscal management practices continue to be sound.

Through best management practices and shared services, Woodbine has continued to cover municipal needs without any additional tax burden. Additionally, we continue to successfully obtain grant funding from federal, state, and other sources, allowing us to leverage our municipal funds to the fullest extent possible.

This has allowed the Borough to improve and maintain our infrastructure. For 2017, the Borough has budgeted to receive or administer approximately \$424,936.00 in grants for needed projects, both throughout the Borough and its Airport Business Park, bringing our total 2017 budget to \$2,903,081.00.

Through shared services with local, County, and State entities, as well as contracted services, the Borough will continue to pursue cost savings. These collaborations allow us to ensure cost savings with no reduction, and in some cases, an expansion of services to Borough residents.

Although our ratable base was stable in 2016, like many other municipalities we have experienced a decrease in recent years. During that time, a combination of fiscally responsible use of surplus, along with responsible budgeting and use of best practices, grant funds, stable debt service, increased tax collection rate, and expanding shared services allowed the Borough to continue to maintain a zero percent increase in the Local Purpose Tax rate, without any loss of services to Borough residents.

The Borough continues to promote and ensure the quality of life and health, safety, and welfare of our present and future residents in a fiscally responsible manner.

I would like to thank the Borough Council, appointed officials, members of our Boards, Authorities, Commissions, Borough employees, Borough consultants, and shared service partners for their dedication to the improvement and sustainability of the Borough.

William Pikolycky

Mayor