

PRESS RELEASE

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BOROUGH OF WOODBINE INTRODUCES 2011 SPENDING PLAN

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine introduced, at its March 17 Council meeting, the Budget for 2011. The Local Purpose tax continues to be stable for the 21st consecutive year. The rate is at 24 cents per \$100 assessed value.

The 2011 spending plan calls for a total budget of \$2.4 million. This figure does not include grants that the Borough is currently pursuing or those that are presently under contract. It maintains funding for capital improvements for the enhancement of our public recreation centers, athletic fields, public facilities, and overall infrastructure. Using this combination of grant and budget funds allows the Borough to gain the leverage necessary to pursue additional funding for future projects in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

Unlike other local municipalities, Woodbine set a goal to be below the current "cap" as instituted by recent legislation long before there ever was such a mandate instituted and has kept local spending well below the 2% cap that was imposed, increasing at an average of only .8%, despite the decreases in municipal aid. In other words, Woodbine has kept spending under control and well below the recently imposed cap. In fact, based on a report published by the State of New Jersey, Woodbine is one of a select few municipalities in the entire state that has kept spending below 2%, over the last 10 years when the mandates permitted higher.

In order to achieve this cost savings, the Borough has taken a lead in the use of shared services, with shared services between the Borough, the Woodbine Municipal Utilities Authority, the Woodbine Port Authority, Woodbine Developmental Center, and the local School District.

Previously Woodbine entered into shared services agreements for our 911 dispatching and ambulance service, and, most recently, with Middle Township for shared municipal court services.

Tax payments can now be made on-line for the convenience of taxpayers, which has kept the tax collection rate at approximately 97%.

In 2010, the Borough added more than \$1 million in new ratables and was one of only four municipalities in the County to record an increase in added assessments in 2010 when compared to 2009.

Furthermore, the Borough has used 8% less surplus than the prior year.

“Our municipal aid was reduced by approximately \$100,000 in 2010. Even with the reduction in municipal aid, our administration has been able to offset the cost of fiscal responsibility from the taxpayers, noted Mayor Pikolycky. “Having achieved the balanced and affordable budget that is ideally striven for, we thus continue to be able to promote an increasingly higher and sustainable quality of life for our residents. I am pleased to note that for the 21st consecutive year the local purpose tax rate has been stable. Thus, Woodbine sustainably continues to position itself in a very strong infrastructural and business-friendly way, thereby being able to now attract commercial businesses and development.”