

March 27, 2020

Dear Neighbors:

It is my pleasure to provide you with a copy of the Tentative Budget and supporting documents for fiscal year ending 5/31/21 **proposing a small decrease in property taxes and a tax levy that stays under the NYS 2% Tax Cap Law.** This is the fifth consecutive flat property tax and the eighth consecutive budget I have presented that stayed below the NYS Tax Cap. In addition, for the last six years the Office of State Comptroller has performed a Fiscal Stress test on local governments. Each year Asharoken was awarded the highest possible rating, "No Designation".

The attached 2020-21 budget maintains all of the services that the Village provides for its residents and reserves money for future needs without raising taxes for the next fiscal year.

I would like to highlight several items in the Tentative Budget that changed from last year. The largest reduction in the revenue accounts was to interest income as a result of the dramatic drop in interest rates in the last month. The largest expense increases were in Police Personnel (PBA contract), Police Retirement costs and in the Fire\ EMS\ Paramedic service contract with the Northport Fire District. Health Insurance decreased as a result of slightly lower rates and a change in personnel coverage. The reduction in health insurance helped offset the loss of revenue from interest income. The contingent account was lowered to reflect our basic reserves.

Smaller increases occurred in Operating Costs, Fireworks Contract, Sanitation Recycling costs and Insurance premiums. Offsetting these increases was a reduction in Police & Sanitation Fuel as a result of Shared Services with Northport Village and a reduction in Tax Grievance because of fewer applications submitted. The budget proposes funding reserve accounts for Highway Projects, Unpaid Benefits (Police Retirement Costs) and Police equipment.

I would like to thank Clerk Nancy Rittenhouse and Treasurer Emily Hayes for helping prepare this budget. Together they have worked on the last twelve budgets and their expertise really shows.

As part of the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on April 7th at 6:30pm, **via teleconference**, a public hearing on the budget will be held as required by law. You can email me your comments or questions to gletica@asharokenny.org prior to the hearing if you are unable to call in. Any emailed comments or questions will be addressed at the meeting and will become part of the official record. **The call-in numbers for the teleconference are 1-866-705-2554 or 1-913-227-1201 enter the passcode 137432 follow the directions; meeting will begin at 6:30pm.**

I look forward to hearing your comments either by email or during the teleconference public hearing call. **Attached is the Tentative Budget Packet** for fiscal year 5/31/2021; a posted copy can also be found on the website at www.asharoken.com.

Sincerely
Mayor Greg Letica