



INCORPORATED

VILLAGE OF ASHAROKEN

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December 29, 2021

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Dear Residents & Property Owners:

At the Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 4th, at 6:30pm a public hearing will be held via teleconference on proposed local law (1-2022) to allow the Board of Trustees to override the NY State 2% tax cap. This is the first step in the budget process. The proposed local law (1-2022) gives financial flexibility without the constraints of an arbitrary tax limit imposed by NY State. Passage of this law gives a safety net should unexpected expenses arise, or revenue shortfalls occur prior to finalizing the budget. Examples are unusual high snow removal costs or police overtime incurred due to an unanticipated storm.

The board is in the initial phase of preparing the 2022-2023 budget. I would like to stress that adoption of the override law should not be interpreted or assumed to mean that the board intends to have a tax increase above the 2% threshold. We must finalize the assessment roll, determine our projected revenues and expenditures, and develop a realistic budget for the next fiscal year. It is in the best interest of the village to adopt the law with the hope and expectation that it may not be needed. Please keep in mind due to the current inflationary environment a tax increase may be needed.

Since I was elected Mayor 10 years ago, the average annual tax increase has been .86% and there has been no tax increase for the last 6 years. We have a long history of fiscal conservatism. The Board and I will do our best to develop a budget that maintains and improves all the necessary services for the village and its residents for next year.

Teleconference call in number for public hearing is 1-866-705-2554, passcode 137432.

Best Regards,

Mayor Dr. Gregory Letica