PENFIELD, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 – Penfield Town Supervisor George Wiedemer and Finance Director Robert Beedon will present the 2010 Tentative Budget proposal to the Town Board and community Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall auditorium, 3100 Atlantic Avenue.

“The proposed budget of $15 million is lower than last year’s budget of $15.5 million. Penfield’s taxpayers can be confident we are continuing our strong tradition of fiscal responsibility. The property tax rate is down. Spending is down. Essential services are in tact,” said Supervisor Wiedemer.

Penfield’s property tax rate remains among the lowest in Monroe County. The proposed budget presents a base Town tax rate of $2.64 per $1,000 of assessed property value, a decrease of 30 cents per thousand dollars. (The rate was a flat $2.94 from 2007 to 2009). Penfield remains one of only seven towns in Monroe County with a tax rate below $3.00 per $1,000 of assessed property value. The Town receives about 8% of aggregate property taxes collected. Of the remainder, the School District receives about 70% and the County receives about 22%.

The 2010 Budget includes a 17% decrease in contractual expenses, increased retirement costs at 11% of salary, a 10% increase in medical insurance, flat property tax revenues, and a Consumer Price Index of 1.84%. Town departments have helped to control expenses with a spending decrease of 3.37%, or $523,557.

Revenue projections for 2010 are lower due to a decrease of $130,000 interest income from investments, a decrease of $80,434 in income from State Aid, and no Sales Tax increase. Lower costs and quality improvement programs help to offset these reductions.
Wiedemer achieved budgetary savings by reduced spending and continuing changes made in 2009 including a reduction of staff vehicle use, fewer cell phones, and reduced energy expenses. Wiedemer is completing an audit of Town facilities with the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority and is directing grants toward implementation of recommendations from the audits. An employee-driven internal effort is underway to reduce, reuse and recycle resources.

Deputy Supervisor Jim Mulley stated, “The Town Board is committed to keeping Penfield’s tax rate low. We will work with the Supervisor to deliver a budget that is consistent with the town’s history of fiscal responsibility.”

The Penfield Town Board reviews a multi-year budget, taking into account the projections and changes that are anticipated for the next three years. The outlook is based on conservative estimates for revenues and a review of the Town’s long-term plans and projects. This multi-year outlook is unique among municipalities in Monroe County.

Because of its record of discipline, Penfield is consistently recognized as one of the most fiscally responsible towns in the State. In 2009, while many municipalities were downgraded, Penfield maintained its excellent Aa3 credit rating from Moody’s Investors Service. The strong credit rating allows Penfield to secure low-interest financing for capital projects, and assists with cash flow throughout the year. The Moody’s rating reflects Penfield’s history of stable financial operations and strong management practices.

After the September 16 Town Board meeting, copies of the 2008 Penfield Town Budget will be available in the Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Road, the Town website at www.penfield.org, or by contacting the Office of the Comptroller in the Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue, in Penfield.

**PENFIELD 2010 BUDGET TIMELINE**

**2009**

April to September  
Town Supervisor, Finance Director and Staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare Tentative Budget

September 16  
Town Supervisor, Finance Director present summary of Tentative Budget to Town Board and community; document made public for review

October 7  
Public Hearing on 2010 Tentative Budget; public comments received

October 7-16  
Town Board reviews comments and develops a Final Budget

October 21  
Town Board Legislative meeting, Adoption of 2010 Budget

October 22  
Town presents Penfield Adopted 2010 Budget to County of Monroe

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**Media Contacts**

George Wiedemer, Penfield Town Supervisor 585-340-8631

Phyllis Ely, Communications 585-340-8647