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Penfield Town Board Adopts 2011 Budget – Flat Tax Rate
Reduced expenses, services intact

PENFIELD, N.Y., OCTOBER 21, 2010 – Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and the Penfield Town Board adopted the Town’s 2011 budget at the October 20 legislative meeting. The adopted $15.2 million budget keeps the Town tax rate flat at the 2010 budget level of $2.64 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

The Adopted 2011 Budget is about .60% above the 2010 Budget. Salaries and benefits continue to make up more than 68% of the total budget. This is due to a 33% increase in retirement benefits, which resulted in an increase of $280,000 in retirement cost for 2011 and an estimated increase of 13% in medical cost for 2011.

Penfield’s property tax rate remains among the lowest in Monroe County and is one of only seven towns in the County with a tax rate below $3.00 per $1,000 of assessed property value. The Town of Penfield receives roughly eight cents ($0.08) of each tax dollar. Monroe County and the school districts share the balance.

Revenue projections for 2011 reflect a lower revenue balance for the fiscal year. There is a decrease of $100,000 from mortgage tax and a decrease of $30,000 in income from local revenues.

“Government has become too large at all levels,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “This Town Board was committed to cutting costs, reducing the size of Penfield government, and looking for ways to do more with less. The size of government today did not get to where it got overnight, nor will we get it to where it needs to be overnight; however, Penfield has been, and will continue to be, a leader in less government. We will challenge government at every level to reduce and eliminate unfunded mandates to Penfield residents.”

Supervisor LaFountain achieved the flat tax rate with a range of actions including not replacing retiring employees, following through on NYSERDA audit recommendations to reduce energy consumption and costs, reducing use of contractors and doing more projects in-house, and adjusting Recreation programs to better cover costs. A trial four-day/ten-hour workweek with public works employees
yielded better efficiency (for example, four set-up/take downs a week for projects instead of five) and reduced energy consumption. Also, elected officials, appointed officials, and department heads will receive no pay increase in 2011; making this the second year with no increase for officials and the first year for staff. A grant for facility improvements at the Penfield Community center will also help to offset costs to the Town.

The Penfield Town Board reviews a multi-year budget, with projections and expected changes for the next three years. The Board bases its outlook 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.

The Adopted 2011 Budget is available online at www.penfield.org and at the Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Road.

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