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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penfield 2012 Tentative Budget Presentation
Reduced Spending, Smaller Government, Flat Taxes

PENFIELD, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 – Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and Finance Director Robert Beedon presented the 2012 Tentative Budget proposal to the Town Board and community Wednesday, September 7.

“My commitment, and that of the entire Town Board, is to reduce the cost of local government by reducing spending and controlling costs in all aspects of the operation,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “We have little control of runaway spending at the State and Federal levels, and unfortunately more and more costs continue to be pushed down to the towns. Penfield has, and will continue to be, a leader in less government and more government reform.”

The proposed 2012 budget of $15.16 M is 2.31% below the 2011 Budget. A major impact on 2012 expenses is the full funding of retirement cost at 18.9% of salary, which is a 16% increase in retirement benefits from 2011; a 12% increase in workers compensation cost; a 3% increase in medical cost; and use of $80,000 to fund the general reserve fund for future upkeep and maintenance of town buildings.

The Town tax rate will remain flat at the 2011 level of $2.64 per $1,000 of assessed property value. Penfield’s property tax rate remains one of the lowest in Monroe County. The Town of Penfield receives $0.076 of each tax dollar (7.6 cents).
Supervisor LaFountain achieved the flat tax rate with a range of actions including not replacing retiring employees, completing NYSERDA audit recommendations to reduce energy consumption and costs, reducing use of contractors and doing more projects in-house, intermunicipal cooperation, and adjusting Recreation programs to better cover costs. A four-day/ten-hour workweek for 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 and appointed officials will receive no pay increase in 2012.

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

With its history of fiscal discipline, the financial world consistently recognizes Penfield as one of the most financially responsible towns in New York State. In 2010, Moody’s Investors Service upgraded Penfield’s already excellent rating from an Aa3 to an impressive Aa2. This rating allows Penfield to secure low-interest financing for capital projects (sewers, roadways, bridges), and assists with cash flow throughout the year. The Moody’s rating also reflects Penfield’s history of stable financial operations and strong management practices.

As of September 8, print copies of the 2012 Tentative Budget will be available at the Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Road or by contacting the Office of the Comptroller in the Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue, in Penfield. The Tentative Budget is currently available online at www.penfield.org. A public hearing for the Preliminary Budget is set for October 5.

**TOWN OF PENFIELD 2012 BUDGET TIMELINE**

**April to September 2011** - Town Supervisor, Finance Director and Staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare 2012 Tentative Budget

**September 7-21, 2011** - Town Supervisor, Finance Director present a summary of the Tentative Budget to Town Board and community (9/7); document made public for review (during this period, Tentative Budget becomes the Preliminary Budget)
September 7-October 12, 2011 — Public comment period

October 5, 2011 - Public Hearing on 2012 Preliminary Budget; public comments received

October 5-12, 2011 - Town Board reviews public comments, prepares a Final Budget

October 19, 2011 - Town Board Legislative meeting, adoption of a Final 2012 Budget; Adopted Budget made public

October 20, 2011 - Town presents Penfield Adopted 2012 Budget to County of Monroe

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