Penfield 2013 Tentative Budget Presentation
~ Smaller government, flat taxes through reduced spending ~

PENFIELD, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 — Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and Finance Director Robert Beedon presented the 2013 Tentative Budget proposal to the Town Board and community Wednesday, September 5.

“Our town board has heard loud and clear from residents that all levels of government must become smaller, taxes need to remain flat, and there must be less overall spending,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “Since becoming supervisor, I have challenged every department head to perform more with less and to streamline overall operations. Nothing is sacred, and we must reduce costs through less spending. Penfield will once again be well below the New York State mandated tax cap; we can only hope the State steps up and follows suit. On-time budgets are one thing—managing costs are another. Local governments like Penfield will lead the way. Can other levels of government follow suit or will they just push more mandates down locally?”

The proposed 2013 budget of $15.1 M is 1.5% below the current 2012 Budget. Major impacts on 2013 expenses include the full funding of retirement cost at 21% of salary—a dramatic 19% increase in retirement benefits from 2012. There is a 12% increase in workers compensation cost, a 12% increase in medical cost, and a 10% increase in general liability insurance cost.

The town tax rate will remain flat at the 2012 level of $2.64 per $1,000 of assessed property value,
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marking the fourth consecutive year at the $2.64 level. Penfield’s property tax rate remains one of the lowest in Monroe County. The Town of Penfield receives approximately $0.08 of each tax dollar (8 cents).

Supervisor LaFountain achieved the flat tax rate with actions that include selective replacement of retiring employees; continued reduction of energy consumption and costs; and new recycling behaviors that better separate materials and direct them to appropriate markets, providing a new, modest revenue stream to the town. The town is also doing more projects in-house and using fewer contractors, continuing inter-municipal cooperation on projects, and adjusting Recreation programs to better cover costs. The Supervisor consolidated sewer, highway, parks and facilities departments into one public works department. Those functions are now all located at the Jackson Road complex to share resources and reduce costs. Additionally, elected and appointed officials will receive no pay increase in 2013.

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 6, print copies of the 2013 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 (see Quick Links on home page). A public hearing to receive comments on the Preliminary Budget is set for October 3. The Penfield Town Board reviews comments through October 12.
PENFIELD 2013 BUDGET TIMELINE

April to September 2012 - Town Supervisor, Finance Director and Staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare 2013 Tentative Budget

September 5, 2012 - Town Supervisor, Finance Director present a summary of the Tentative Budget to Town Board and community; document made public for review (during this period, Tentative Budget becomes the Preliminary Budget)

September 5-October 10, 2012 - Public comment period

October 3, 2012 - Public Hearing on 2013 Preliminary Budget; public comments received

October 3-12, 2012 - Town Board reviews comments, develops a Final Budget

October 17, 2012 - Town Board Legislative meeting, adoption of a Final 2013 Budget; Adopted Budget made public

October 18, 2012 - Town presents Penfield Adopted 2013 Budget to County of Monroe

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