Penfield 2014 Tentative Budget Presentation

~ Controlled spending through process improvements, technology and leadership ~

PENFIELD, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 12, 2013 – Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and Finance Director Robert Beedon presented the 2014 Tentative Budget proposal to the Penfield Town Board and community Wednesday, September 11.

“I know every elected official has received the same feedback from their customers, the residents of their respective communities, and the message is to better manage costs, control spending, and reduce the size of government in all ways,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “What amazes me is that while everyone acknowledges the message, they continue to increase spending and tax rates. The Penfield Town Board has heard your message clearly, and has taken steps—and will continue to take steps—to further cut costs and reduce spending. We can no longer talk about government reform; we must demand it at all levels and everyone needs to actively participate to fix the problem.”

The proposed 2014 budget of $15.8 is less than the 2013 budget. Major impacts on 2014 expenses include the full funding of retirement cost at 20% of salary, a 12% increase in workers compensation cost, a 12.5% increase in medical cost, and a 10% increase in general liability insurance cost.

The town tax rate will remain flat at the 2013 level of $2.64 per $1,000 of assessed property value, marking the fifth 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
Unfunded mandates continue to be the source of most local government budget problems. Supervisor LaFountain achieved the flat tax rate with ongoing cost-reductions that include selective replacement of retiring employees; use of more seasonal contract labor; forming more and broader partnerships with other communities to leverage cost reductions; further technology upgrades and process improvements; and exploration of more aggressive outsourcing of tasks and duties. Additionally, for the fifth year, all elected and appointed officials will receive no pay increase in 2014.

The Penfield Town Board continues to review a multi-year budget with projections and expected changes for the next three years based on the dynamics of unfunded mandates and other cost pressures that continue to impact all budgets. 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 continues to be 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. Moody’s Investors Service graded Penfield’s credit rating an excellent Aa2, one of the highest in the county and state. 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 12, print copies of the 2014 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 will be available online at www.penfield.org (see Finance Dept.). A public hearing to receive comments on the Preliminary Budget is set for October 2. The Penfield Town Board reviews comments through October 11.

**PENFIELD 2014 BUDGET TIMELINE**

**April to September 2013** - Town Supervisor, Finance Director and Staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare 2014 Tentative Budget
**September 11, 2013** - 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 11-October 9, 2013** - Public comment period

**October 2, 2013** - Public Hearing on 2014 Preliminary Budget; public comments received

**October 2-11, 2013** - Town Board reviews comments, develops a Final Budget

**October 16, 2013** - Town Board Legislative meeting, adoption of a Final 2014 Budget; Adopted Budget made public

**October 17, 2013** - Town presents Penfield Adopted 2014 Budget to County of Monroe

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