FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penfield Town Boardadopts 2015 Budget
“Cutting costs, controlling spending, maintaining services”

PENFIELD, N.Y., OCTOBER 16, 2014 – Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and the Penfield Town Board adopted the town’s 2015 Final Budget at the October 15 legislative meeting. The budget of $15.9 is $278 K lower than the 2014 budget, keeping the 2015 town tax rate flat at $2.64 per $1,000 assessed property value, marking the sixth 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).

Major impacts on 2015 expenses include the full funding of retirement cost at 20 percent of salary, a 12 percent increase in workers compensation cost, a 12 percent increase in medical cost, and a 10 percent increase in general liability insurance cost.

“The town board continues to work very hard preparing the annual budget by balancing increased unfunded mandates from the state and federal governments along with residents’ interests and need to keep taxes stable,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “A week does not go by without residents stopping by my office asking that all government taxes be reduced. The Penfield Town Board has heard that message loud and clear and continues to maintain a flat tax for the town’s budget in 2015.”
Unfunded mandates continue to be the source of most local government budget problems along with an increase in the costs of goods. For example, the cost of road salt has increased 27 percent for the 2015 budget cycle. 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 sixth year, all elected and appointed officials will receive no pay increase in 2015.

As of October 16, print copies of the 2015 Final Budget are 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 2015 Final Budget is also available online at www.penfield.org (go to ‘Quick Links,’ ‘Town Budget’).

**PENFIELD 2015 BUDGET TIMELINE**

**April to September 2014** - Town Supervisor, Finance Director and staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare 2015 Tentative Budget

**September 3, 2014** - 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 4-October 10, 2014** - Public comment period

**October 1, 2014** - Public Hearing on 2015 Preliminary Budget; public comments received

**October 1-10, 2014** - Town Board reviews comments, develops a Final Budget

**October 15, 2014** - Town Board Legislative meeting, adoption of a Final 2015 Budget; Adopted Budget made public

**October 16, 2014** - Town presents Penfield Adopted 2015 Budget to County of Monroe

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