FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penfield Town Board Adopts 2016 Budget

PENFIELD, N.Y., OCTOBER 22, 2015 – Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and the Penfield Town Board adopted the town’s 2016 Final Budget at the October 21 legislative meeting.

The 2016 Final Budget, including special districts, is $18.9 M, an increase of just under $100,000 from the adopted 2015 Town Budget. The proposed Town Operating Budget (without special districts) is $15.8 M, down $78 K from 2015. The town board and staff reduced expenditures to achieve this operational decrease.

As in previous years, expenditures not under the Town’s control continue to see double-digit increases. In 2016, this includes a 12 percent increase in health insurance premiums, continued contributions to the NYS retirement system of approximately 20 percent of payroll, and an estimated 16 percent increase in workers compensation cost.

Revenues, also not under the control of the Town, are down $442,000, or 5.6 percent, mostly due to a reduction of projects from New York State and Monroe County.

The 2016 town tax rate is $2.695 per $1,000 of assessed property value, up $.05 (five cents) from the previous six years’ flat rate of $2.645. At the 2016 rate, a property in Penfield with a valuation of $180,000 would see an increase of $9.00 on its 2016 town tax bill ($180,000 property at $2.645 rate...
“Rising costs and lower revenues continue to be a major challenge for all local governments as we prepare the annual budgets,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “Until there is a serious discussion around unfunded mandates and a need to reduce bloated government at the state and federal levels these costs will continue to increase. Towns will be faced with year-on-year increases or they will have to look at reducing services—neither of these options is in the best interest of our residents.”

Penfield’s property tax rate remains one of the lowest of the 19 towns in Monroe County. The town tax continues to account for approximately eight percent of each tax dollar. County taxes account for 24 percent, and school taxes account for the remaining 68 percent.

With this Final Budget, there will be no cuts to services or programs.

Penfield has the highest property growth among 19 towns in Monroe County. For 2016, the positive impact of actual new “bricks and mortar” properties has resulted in an allowable levy growth factor increase of 2.6 percent and therefore more contributors to the tax levy.

Unfunded mandates continue to be the source of most local government budget challenges along with an increase in the costs of goods. The Town has achieved ongoing cost-reductions that include selective replacement of retiring employees; use of 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 outsourcing of tasks and duties where there is a good business case of reducing cost and providing the same, or better, services.

Additionally, for the seventh year, all elected and appointed officials will receive no pay increases in 2016.

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 October 22, print copies of the 2016 Adopted Budget are available at the Town Clerk’s Office, the Penfield Public Library, or by contacting the Office of the Comptroller in the Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue, in Penfield. The 2016 Adopted Budget is also available online at www.penfield.org (‘Departments’/‘Finance’).

**PENFIELD 2016 BUDGET TIMELINE**

**April to September 2015** - Town Supervisor, Town Comptroller, and staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare 2016 Tentative Budget

**September 2, 2015** - Town Supervisor, Town Comptroller present a summary of the 2016 Tentative Budget to Town Board and community; document made public for review (during this period, Tentative Budget becomes the Preliminary Budget)

**September 3-October 15, 2015** - Public comment period

**October 7, 2015** - Public Hearing on 2016 Preliminary Budget; public comments received

**October 8-15, 2015** - Town Board reviews comments, develops a Final Budget

**October 21, 2015** - Town Board Legislative meeting, adoption of a Final 2016 Budget; Adopted Budget made public

**October 23, 2015** - Town submits the Penfield Adopted 2016 Budget to County of Monroe

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