NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF PENFIELD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penfield 2017 Final Town Budget Adopted

~ Flat tax rate, same level of services and programs ~

PENFIELD, N.Y., OCTOBER 20, 2016 – Penfield Town Supervisor Tony LaFountain and the Penfield Town Board adopted the town’s Final 2017 Budget at the October 19 legislative meeting.

The Final 2017 Budget, including special districts, is $18.8M, a decrease of $147,162 from the adopted 2016 Town Budget. The proposed Town Operating Budget (without special districts) is $15.8M, down $39K from 2016. Town department heads reduced expenditures to achieve this operational decrease.

As in previous years, expenditures not under the Town of Penfield’s control continue to see double-digit increases. In 2017, this includes an estimated 12 percent increase in health insurance premiums, continued contributions to the NYS retirement system of approximately 20 percent of payroll, and an estimated 17 percent increase in workers compensation cost.

Estimated revenues, also not under the control of the Town of Penfield, are down $218,000, or 2.9 percent, based on historical receipts as well as economic trends.
The adopted 2017 town tax rate remains at $2.695 per $1,000 of assessed property value, which is the same as the 2016 rate. At the proposed 2017 rate, a property in Penfield with a valuation of $180,000 will remain at $485.10 for general governmental services. Once again, the proposed town tax levy increase is below the increase allowed by New York State.

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.

There will be no cuts to services or programs in the adopted budget.

“The development and adoption of the annual budget is one of the most important tasks the town board undertakes during the course of any year,” said Supervisor Tony LaFountain. “Year-on-year we face increasing costs for medical, insurances, retirement, and goods and services. This, combined with more unfunded mandates from state and federal governments—along with requests for new and expanded services—is a challenge as we strive to respect residents’ requests to lower taxes. The 2017 budget strikes a reasonable balance to satisfy all these competing interests.”

Penfield’s growth rate for 2017 is again among the highest in the county, the positive impact of actual new “bricks and mortar” properties has resulted in an allowable levy growth factor increase of 1.12 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 of Penfield 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 aggressive outsourcing of tasks and duties.

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 April of 2016, Moody’s Investors Service
upgraded Penfield’s credit rating to an Aa1, 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 21, print copies of the Final 2017 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 Final 2017 Budget is also available online at www.penfield.org (go to ‘Quick Links,’ ‘Town Budget’).

PENFIELD 2017 BUDGET TIMELINE

*June to September 2016* - Town Supervisor, Town Comptroller and staff conduct budget work sessions; prepare 2017 Tentative Budget

*September 7, 2016* - Town Supervisor, Town Comptroller present a summary of the 2017 Tentative Budget to the Town Board and community; document made public for review (during this period, Tentative Budget becomes the Preliminary Budget)

*September 8-October 14, 2016* - Public comment period

*October 5, 2016* - Public hearing on 2017 Preliminary Budget; public comments received

*October 6-14, 2016* - Town Board reviews comments, develops a Final Budget

*October 19, 2016* - Town Board legislative meeting, adoption of a Final 2017 Budget

*October 21, 2016* - Town submits the Penfield Adopted 2017 Budget to County of Monroe, Adopted Budget made public

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