

Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Town of Johnsburg Budget Rates

Tax Rates	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Percent Increase
General	40.28	42.16	38.73	33.06	30.15	-8.81
Highway	57.26	63.90	67.32	72.95	72.68	-0.37
Library	5.68	5.80	5.72	5.74	5.74	-0.02
Town	103.22	111.86	111.77	111.76	108.56	-2.86
Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Short Takes

Main Street Mosaic

Local artist Kate Hartley recently presented the Johnsburg Town Board with a proposal to craft a scenic mosaic over the concrete wall system located on Main Street in North Creek. The project, done with the help of many volunteers, will include artistic renderings of natural resources throughout the area.

Towers Installed

In late October a large helicopter helped install lift towers for the new interconnect Hudson lift at the Ski Bowl. The lift is still targeting a late December debut, if the

Sign of the Seasons

The Johnsburg Town Board recently authorized highway superintendent Dan Hitchcock to fill the positions of two part-time wing positions. These positions are necessary for snow removal during the upcoming winter season.

Town Tax Decrease For Three Years

2011	-2.86%
2010	-.01%
2009	-.08%



Officer Elections & Coach Appointments For Johnsburg Youth Athletics/Little League

11/8 at 6 p.m.

Wevertown Community Center

Call Amy Cleveland for more information at 251-3420

Town Tax to be Reduced for Third Consecutive Year

For the third year in a row your town taxes will decrease.

According to the tentative budget submitted in early October, the Town of Johnsburg town tax will decrease by an estimated 2.83%. The budget likewise decreased in fiscal years 2010 and 2009.

The current tentative budget has yet to move from tentative to "preliminary" but it is expected the reduction will remain in place.

(See budget, back page)

More Short Takes...

Harrington Road Bridge

A rainy mid October has slowed efforts to repair the Harrington Road bridge. The highway department, a private contractor and the town's engineering team are attempting to get enough work done so the bridge can be reopened (though not completed) before the snow flies.

Train RFP

Response to Warren County's request for proposals (RFP) for future operations of the railroad which begins in North Creek has been strong. In fact, several large scale regional and national rail companies have requested more detailed information regarding rail line operations which means the companies may make an actual proposal. Key to the operation is the possibility of the assignment of freight rights on the line. More to follow in coming months.

TPCC/HVAC

The Town Board will be exploring options with regards to ongoing problems with the Tanner Pond Community Center heating system. A discussion and presentation are anticipated at upcoming meetings.

County Budget Update

Unlike last year's County budget crisis, the 2011 proposed budget will be one that shows a stabilization of county government without the frantic need to make up multi-million dollar shortfalls. While challenges still exist, particularly in the relationship between state and county, it appears as of this publication that only a minimal or perhaps zero based tax increase may be necessary.

Vanselow to Assume Occupancy Tax Post

Town Councilman Ron Vanselow has agreed to act as temporary chairman of the committee which makes recommendations to the full Town Board for bed tax awards.

The committee applies the content of various applications for funding to a previously defined criteria which creates scores for each applicant.

Prior Chairperson Kelly Nettle was unable to continue this year and Councilman Vanselow agreed to the one year responsibility. Ron's appointment was significant as the Town is heading into crunch time for occupancy tax analysis.

Thanks is due to all continuing committee members and in particular Kelly Nettle and Ed Milner, who each served as past chairpersons.

If you are interested in serving on this important committee, please contact the town hall.

(Budget, cont.)

The most significant challenge in the current budget cycle was New York State's action in forcing communities like Johnsbury to contribute significant additional funds to the retirement system in 2011. The Town had no choice in the matter but worked hard to anticipate the hit in three specific areas.

1. The Town has been particularly frugal in spending from its contingency fund, trying to leave as much money there so as to offset the expected hit.
2. Last year New York State reassigned the amount of value Johnsbury land has in relation to the rest of Warren County. When that value was increased, it created substantial assistance on the part of revenue side as sales tax proceeds are divided according to that value.
3. The privatization of solid waste collection has not only permitted significant cost savings to the taxpayers, but has also (under one provider) permitted the addition of streamlined recycling. This service is not only green and easier to use than other methods, but is also provides overall budgetary savings.

As always, a heartfelt thanks goes out to many who worked very hard to help produce this outcome, particularly Candace Lomax, Don Greene, Dan Hitchcock and Kate Nightingale, to name a few.