



**From the Desk of**

**Jack Conway**

**East Greenbush Town Supervisor**

Supervisor's Report October 25, 2016

This week the Town Board approved the Town's 2017 Budget. It's a fair document that will allow us to effectively provide essential Town services while maintaining an approach that is fiscally prudent and safeguards the use of taxpayer funds. Revenue projections are conservative with no increases projected for the County Sales Tax or the State Aid Mortgage Tax. The amount of total taxes to be levied is \$9,091,811.00, a tax increase of 1.47%. This tax increase keeps us substantially below the New York State Property Tax Cap.

The 2017 Preliminary Budget includes funding for:

- Accounting software and audits;
- 5 new positions for the Department of Public Works – one in the Water Department, two at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, two in the Highway Department (one mechanic);
- \$500,000 for the Luther Road sidewalk project; this is taken from fund balance in the General Fund with the understanding that 80% of the costs of this project will be reimbursed by the State of New York;
- Repayment of \$683,794 in inter-fund borrowing from the General Fund;
- New Police, CSEA and Emergency Communications contract settlements;
- Security windows for the Receiver of Taxes and Town Clerk's offices;
- A new website and telephone system for Town Hall;
- Additional funding for road paving;
- A cleaning process to reduce odor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

For the first time, GEIS fees are described separately on the Analysis of Fund Balance page. There is also an accounting of interfund borrowing. Funds for the Ambulance District have been held constant pending the negotiation of a new contract with the W.F. Bruen Rescue Squad. The salaries of elected officials remain the same with the exception of a 6.7% increase for the Town Justices. The Town Justices have not received a raise since 2007 despite a significant increase in their caseload. The Budget is available on the Town website, [www.eastgreenbush.org](http://www.eastgreenbush.org).

We currently have the audit firm of UHY in Town Hall conducting a single audit on 2013 capital projects and a general audit of the Town's 2015 finances. This is part of the Town Board's continuing commitment to transparency and accountability. It is also an important beginning to having our credit rating restored and placing the Town's finances on a more stable foundation.