

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR HORNİK ANNOUNCES 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET REDUCED

Marlboro Township Council Adopts Unanimously

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (May 2, 2017) – The Township Council adopted the 2017 Municipal Budget at the Township Council meeting held on April 20, 2017. Citing strong operations in 2016, taking into account all storm and emergency costs, the 2017 budget presented to Council included a reduction in the amount to be raised by taxation. As a result, for the average household valued at \$494,179, the total cost will be approximately \$1,808 for all municipal services such as police, parks, public works, and road improvements as compared to \$1,815 in 2016.

Mayor Jon Hornik said, “The challenge of managing the extreme weather conditions of the last several years continues to drive the Township’s cost of operations. Our budgets have had to absorb the increased costs of snow removal, in particular, which has increased 400% since 2007.” He continued, “Despite these pressures, we have continued to deliver the services our residents expect while remaining below the State levy cap by \$2.55 million and State spending cap by \$1.9 million.”

Budget increases continue to be held in check through a reduction of full-time employees; more than 11% since 2007, consolidating departments and authorities, working with employees to trim salary and wage costs, and cutting budgets through efficiency measures. At the same time, access to the public has increased as Construction Code Enforcement (Building), Engineering, Planning, Zoning and Fire Prevention have returned to a five day week schedule. The Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works remain open to the public five days a week, and flex and alternative work schedules continue to be utilized to increase access to the public on certain evenings and weekends.

Council President Jeff Cantor stated, “The Mayor and Council meet with each Department Head and review the budget line item by line item.” He continued, “This process allows us to analyze the budget and watch the bottom line while ensuring that residents continue to enjoy Marlboro’s exemplary services and programs.”

“I could not discuss this year’s budget without mentioning the historic achievement for the residents of Marlboro as the Township took ownership of the Stattel Farm properties located at the corner of Routes 79 and 520. These parcels have long been the centerpiece

for of the Township Open Space and Farmland Preservation Plan and will now be forever preserved and protected from development”, said Mayor Hornik. “Of notable importance, the acquisition of these parcels does not impact the budget or local taxes. The Township applied land preservation funding already authorized and in place, including the Township’s dedicated Open Space Trust Fund, NJ Green Acres Matching Grant and State Agricultural Development Committee funding in order to complete the acquisition.”

As adopted, the 2017 budget raises \$26,270,008 in property taxes, down from the 2016 budget. The municipal portion of the property tax bill represents approximately 17 cents of each dollar. The schools, Marlboro K-8 and the Freehold Regional Districts, receive approximately 69% and the County approximately 14%.

“This could not be done without the assistance of the Township Employees, the Department Heads and Supervisors,” said Mayor Hornik. “I especially want to thank Council President Jeff Cantor, Council Vice President Randi Marder, Councilwoman Carol Mazzola, Councilman Scott Metzger, and Councilman Michael Scalea for their support and dedication as we work together throughout the year to review the budget and ensure that Marlboro remains the wonderful place it is to live and raise a family.”

A Special meeting of the Township Council meeting to discuss the 2017 Municipal Budget was held on February 6, 2017, the Budget was introduced at the March 2, 2017 Township Council meeting and the public hearing and adoption took place at the April 20 Council meeting.

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