



Town of Smithtown
SUPERVISOR PATRICK VECCHIO's
First Annual Report to Smithtown Residents

For all these years serving as your Town Supervisor it still gives me great delight in reporting on the accomplishments and status of the Town. I can report to you that the Town has never been stronger. With an improving economy, stable tax base and low debt, the Town's outlook is positive, strong and encouraging.

Of course none of this happens in isolation. Residents who write letters, come to town board meetings and otherwise participate, help us to manage our Town and are essential to successful outcomes. We should also recognize the fine work of our dedicated employees and department heads. The Town Board works very well together, has proper checks and balances and at the end of the day makes Smithtown a great town.

Finances:

Bond Rating Upgrade:

In 2016, the Town of Smithtown received a rating of Aaa from Moody Investor Services which is their "Gold Standard" bond rating. This insures that when the town borrows, the town will pay the lowest rate available.

Debt:

Town of Smithtown has the lowest amount of debt per capita than any town of Long Island. Additionally, with debt approximating only \$17 million, Smithtown also has the lowest amount of total debt outstanding as compared with all the other towns on Long Island except for the Town of Shelter Island whose population approximates only 2,500.

We are committed to carrying low levels of debt. Despite our low debt, we have continued to make needed investments in infrastructure and equipment. The Town has purchased 25 new heavy duty and lightweight duty highway trucks, upgraded our other departmental light vehicle fleet through leasing and is able to pay for road paving without having to borrow. Because of this strict management control, this does not burden our future residents with payments for improvements already made.

Fund Balances and 2018 Budget Forecast:

Moody's bond rating agency has declared that our fund balances remain strong and stable. The Town's fund balances are in accordance with the NYS Comptroller guidelines.

BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE, I CAN SAFELY PREDICT THAT I WILL DELIVER TO THE TOWN COUNCIL A NO TAX INCREASE BUDGET FOR 2018. This prediction is in addition to the tax decrease in 2017. We expect to achieve this while maintaining our commitment to producing structurally balanced budgets (expenditures are funded by recurring revenues).

Because of strong and consistent financial management we were able to add and fund two new initiatives in the 2017 budget; one in the amount of \$2 million toward sewer installation and the other also in the amount of \$2 million for land acquisition.

Roads and Infrastructure:

The newly elected Highway Superintendent Robert Murphy has worked closely with me and the Town Council to ensure that your tax dollars are spent wisely and effectively.

2017 Road Paving Program

This year we have provided funds to pave 25 miles of roads and also allocated \$2 million for sidewalk and driveway aprons repairs.

Look back at 2016/17 Snow Removal Operations:

We had several major snowfalls in 2017 all of which were admirably handled by our Highway department without expending the full amount of funds provided for snow removal. The men and women who go out in such whether deserve our gratitude and acknowledgement for a job well done!

Other Programs:

Environmental Initiatives:

We are actively engaged in installing solar panels on various Town owned properties. This will result in clean renewable electricity and result in further cost reductions.

All 7000 residential street lights have been replaced with LED lights. Each year the Town will save \$424,000 in electric charged by PSEG due to this improvement.

Senior Services:

Through some luck and knowledge of the NYS procurement system, we were able to purchase for only \$15,000 two brand new senior buses from a not for profit agency that could not use them. This saved the town approximately \$100,000 in acquisition costs. These 16 seat buses which are

also wheel chair accessible, will significantly improve our quality of service for years to come.

With a cost approximating \$200K, the Senior Center façade and portico was completely rebuilt. Skylights were replaced throughout the building and the building extended. These repairs were made possible with the \$100,000 savings achieved from not having to spend full value for new buses as was originally contemplated.

Horizons:

The fight against drugs in our community continues. Horizons, one of the few drug treatment and prevention programs left on Long Island that is run by a Town, offers critical programs which are partially funded by Suffolk County, fees charged to clients and of course Town support. The Town is committed to fighting this scourge upon our community with the three prong approach of drug education, prevention and treatment.

Parks and Recreation:

This year the Town has another robust plan for recreational programs. With over 40 programs featuring sports camps for baseball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and more, the Town serves over 1,200 children during the summer. New programs have been added such as Mommy & Me soccer camp along with Cheer leading advanced training classes.

Our parks are in great condition with many improvements having been made this year. The Hoyt Farm, a jewel in our 26 park system had a brand new rest room building constructed in the picnic area. Short Beach bathrooms were also reconstructed. At the Smithtown Landing Country Club, the entrance was enhanced with new fencing and the stairs from the parking lot completely rebuilt. Bathroom renovation at Kings Park Bluff is also underway along with handicap accessibility. Many other renovations are planned throughout the Summer and Fall of 2017.

Animal Shelter:

We are dedicated to restoring the Shelter to the level performance our public demands and our pets deserve. The animal shelter is now under the direction of qualified personnel from the Public Safety department. We have embarked on a mission to clean, renovate and modernize the shelter facility.

Grants and Working with our partners in Government:

Our active pursuit of grants keeps your tax bill low and therefore the Town will continue to vigorously pursue grant opportunities. This year we were one of only two towns to receive the highest award (\$350,000) for removal and rehabilitation of “zombie houses”. Additionally we were also one of only two towns on Long Island to receive a \$250,000 challenge grant for energy conservation awarded by NYS.

In keeping with the Governor’s request for governments to work together to save costs, we were awarded \$1.6 million to establish a Regional Fueling Facility. This will allow various units of governments and districts to fuel their vehicles at two central locations in the Town.

The Town also expanded its cooperation with fire districts. Effective 2017, the Town now handles fire dispatch for 3 fire districts. This is a cost effective way for town, villages and districts to take advantage of economies of scale.