

TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE

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TO: Special Budget Report

FROM: Mayor P. Ted Husa

DATE: April 29, 2008

Mayor's Report

2008 Budget – After three months of hard work by the Administration and Council, which included many Saturdays and long meetings the Council is prepared to adopt the 2008 Township budget.

It was known in advance that there were problematic appropriation and also revenue numbers. Before the process began due to uncontrollable costs appropriations were up \$766,676, due to things like the unfunded pension liability, 4% contractual salary increase and increases in utilities.

By very determined effort by the mayor and administration adjustments in the work force were realized, which resulted in significant tax savings. This trimmed at least \$240,000 directly from salaries. An additional \$20,000 savings was realized by replacing other salaried positions with volunteers in the beautification committee and Denville TV committee. The Council working closely with the Mayor and Administration trimmed an additional \$76,000 from the budget without any loss of essential services, thereby fulfilling promises to cut the budget while maintaining the same level of services.

In all \$316,837 was trimmed from the budget. Of the remaining amount to be raised by taxation, \$936,484, more than half is a direct result of state imposed costs or loss of revenue due to state aid cutbacks. Without this state mandates the increase of costs would have been just under 1 ½ tax points.

After holding more budget sessions than I can ever recall, the Council simply ran out of places to cut the budget. Despite this we were able to provide the following capital projects;

- \$346,000 for road resurfacing
- \$ 20,000 for curb and sidewalk replacement (a priority list is currently being considered)
- \$60,000 for new police equipment
- \$260,000 for DPW vehicles
- \$125,000 for parks and playgrounds trucks and equipment

The water utility was able to invest \$720,000 in improvements and new equipment.

The increase is .038 or about the same as the dedicated open space trust fund or about \$118 per average assessed home. The old tax rate of .429 has become .467.