

## 2013 Mayors Budget Message

For the last two years Township Committee has been able to achieve a low, stable municipal tax rate through careful cost control. However, costs continue to rise and this year the majority of the Committee decided that, in order to keep pace with those costs and provide some investment in the town, an increase in the budget was necessary. For 2013, the Committee is recommending a municipal budget of \$2.625 million. The amount to be raised in municipal taxes will increase \$57,000 to \$1.242 million from \$1.185 million. For the average residential property this will require an increase of about \$22 for the year (a little less than \$2 per month) in its municipal tax. To put it another way, this will add about 0.6 cents per \$100 of property value to residents' tax bill.

The 2013 budget will enable us to:

- provide for increased costs in medical insurance and pension
- reinstate a fifth person in the Department of Public Works staff to provide for enhanced road maintenance
- provide a 2% cost of living increase for our dedicated hardworking township staff
- cover costs for increased legal expenses

The Committee continues to try to keep spending low and looks for additional opportunities to employ shared service agreements and apply for grants. This year, we entered an agreement with Franklin Township to share our municipal court which will result in an income for East Amwell of approximately \$35,500. In addition, the sidewalk improvement project in the Ringoes village was funded entirely through a state grant (\$180,000) providing for safer pedestrian walkways, access to the Clawson Park facility and municipal ball fields.

The Committee salutes the continued efforts of so many community volunteers, whose efforts are a significant resource to our town and help ensure that East Amwell remains an exceptional place to live.

*The message posted here is modified from that included in the State budget documents to provide the municipal tax figures and update the effect on the average residential property.*