

Mayor
Thomas J. Tweedy



Board of Trustees
James E. Rhatigan
Mary-Grace Tomecki
Dominick A. Longobardi
Kevin M. Fitzgerald

Floral Park Village Items



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ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING APRIL 9, 2014 8:00 PM VILLAGE HALL

Message from the Mayor *Dear Resident,*

The Village Board will be presenting the proposed Village Budget on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 8:00 pm at the Village Hall Courtroom.

Ensuring that the Village residents' tax dollars are wisely spent is the highest priority for our Village Board. The Village portion of your property tax bill represents approximately 1/3 of your total property tax bill and I want to assure you that our proposed Village Budget represents a conservative and realistic plan for the coming year. Each year in crafting the Village Budget, the Village Board members, all taxpayers like yourself, must balance keeping taxes as low as possible while still providing the level of services that keeps Floral Park a Great Place To Live - and a Safe Place To Live.

Floral Park is one of five full service villages in Nassau County. As a full service Village, we provide essential services that include a Police Department, Fire Department, Library, Building Department, Public Works Department and a Recreation facility. On the following pages you will find a page dedicated to the allocation of Village taxes. This will provide you with the opportunity to see a breakdown of your taxes as it relates to the individual services the Village provides its residents.

Despite the extreme fiscal challenges the Village has faced over the past several years, the Village's financial outlook has remained strong due to the Village's prudent management of its finances. Over the past few years, the Village has reduced its workforce through attrition. We have combined positions and we have turned to outside servicers to reduce our personnel, where appropriate. Also, we have aggressively pursued state and federal grants (when available) for road construction, equipment replacement and capital improvements.

The Village's prudent fiscal management was

recognized by Moody's Investor Services, when they reaffirmed the Village's excellent credit rating. In reaching this determination, Moody's stated that "Floral Park's financial operations are expected to remain strong given conservative budgeting practices." Our strong credit rating not only enabled us to refinance our debt last year (and save a few hundred thousand over the next ten years), it also reduces the costs of future borrowing we may need to do for capital improvements.

We have kept our budget as lean as possible. However, after years of lean budgets, there are certain areas in which we have to invest to plan and provide for future needs. Some problem areas are probably obvious to you as Village residents. One of these problem areas is our Village roads. While our DPW personnel do a great job repairing and patching our roads, time and harsh weather has clearly taken its toll on our Village roads and they need some attention. Consequently, this year's Budget includes an increase of over one half percent (approximately \$130,000) over and above what we have spent in prior years which will be dedicated to improving the conditions of our roads. We will not tackle this problem all at once, but will work towards resolving it over several years.

Another area that we are focusing on is the maintenance of our Village trees. You may have read over the last several months about our new tree maintenance program that seems to be working out nicely. However, you may not be as familiar with the fact that after Super Storm Sandy, the contract price for outside tree services skyrocketed. To implement our tree program and to mitigate the costs associated with outside tree contractors, we needed to invest in some equipment, including a new boom truck. This year's budget includes increases for that boom truck and other equipment and expenses related to tree maintenance.

Also, the Village had to invest in other essential vehicles and equipment to provide for the health and safety of our residents. Included in this year's budget are funds for other vehicles and equipment that needed to be replaced,

including a new ambulance for our Fire Department. Our Rescue Company ambulance is perhaps the most heavily utilized piece of equipment in our Village. Our Rescue Company responds to approximately 1,200 to 1,300 rescue calls per year. Our Rescue Company is manned exclusively by volunteers, but each volunteer is a highly trained professional and requires professional equipment to perform their important and lifesaving service for the residents of this Village. Although part of the costs of equipping this new ambulance was offset by a grant that our Fire Chief Lou D'Amore obtained from Legislators Nicoletto and Muscarella, this year's budget includes payments we will have to start making on a new ambulance.

Also, this year we had to replace a garbage truck and other equipment and vehicles for our Department of Public Works, and our Police and Fire Departments. Be assured that we only replace vehicles and equipment when absolutely necessary. On a positive note, because of our strong credit rating, we were able to finance the vehicle and equipment purchases at favorable rates.

Increases in our Police Department Budget are usually a major driving force with respect to our Budget. While the increase in our Police Budget this year is still significant, it is much less of an increase than in years past. That is because the contract we entered into with the Village PBA contained much more modest salary increases than in prior contracts. Our police salary increases this year of 2% are clearly amongst the lowest rates of increase in Nassau

we received certain concessions that will positively impact the rate of increase in the amount we spend on our police protection going forward. For instance, the Village received concessions on the number of years it takes an officer to reach top pay. Also, and very significantly, Floral Park was the first municipality in Nassau County to have a provision in its Police Contract requiring newly hired officers to contribute towards their health insurance premiums.

Finally, please know that the Village Board and I remain committed to providing the services expected while accepting and understanding our obligation to present a realistic and responsible budget. On the following pages you will see a chart reflecting a budget summary comparing this year's budget with last year's. This year's budget reflects a tax levy increase of 3.9%. Of that increase, over 1.54% represents amounts budgeted for many of the capital improvements discussed above. An overwhelming majority of the balance of the increase reflects contractually mandated expense increases for police and other salaries and employee benefits, such as pension and healthcare increases.

Our Budget Hearing is April 9th at 8:00 p.m. and copies of the Budget are available for review on April 4th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Village Administrator-Treasurer Gerard Bambrick at 326-6300.

Thomas J. Tweedy, Mayor

Allocation of Village Tax for Home Assessed at \$35,500

TRANSPORTATION

\$353.00

Street Maintenance
Street Lighting
Parking
Snow Removal
DPW Administration

PUBLIC SAFETY

\$1,235.48

Police
Fire
Safety Inspection
Civil Defense

CULTURE & RECREATION

\$176.50

Parks & Playgrounds
Youth Programs
Programs for the Aging

PER MONTH

\$367.70

GENERAL

\$661.87

General Government
Staff
Central Garage
Engineering
Insurance
Contingencies
Finances



LIBRARY

\$220.62

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

\$1,147.23

State and Police Retirement
Social Security
Worker's Compensation
Hospital/Medical Insurance

COMMUNITY SERVICES

\$441.24

Refuse Disposal
Sewer Service
Shade Trees
Street Cleaning

DEBT SERVICE

\$176.50

Debt Reduction
Bond Interest

TOTAL TAX

\$4,412.44

BUDGET SUMMARY 2014-2015

DEPARTMENT	2013 / 2014	PERCENT	2014 / 2015	PERCENT	CHANGE
Board of Trustees	\$ 21,500.00	0.08%	\$ 21,500.00	0.08%	\$0.00
Village Justice	\$ 242,589.00	0.95%	\$ 249,871.00	0.95%	\$7,282.00
Mayor	\$ 11,500.00	0.05%	\$ 11,500.00	0.05%	\$0.00
Clerk/Treasurer	\$ 751,756.00	2.96%	\$ 773,014.00	2.93%	\$21,258.00
Purchasing	\$ 63,600.00	0.25%	\$ 63,500.00	0.24%	(\$100.00)
Assessment	\$ 83,773.00	0.33%	\$ 89,175.00	0.34%	\$5,402.00
STAFF					
Law	\$ 204,600.00	0.80%	\$ 197,100.00	0.75%	(\$7,500.00)
Personnel	\$ 41,500.00	0.16%	\$ 41,500.00	0.16%	\$0.00
Engineer	\$ 1,500.00	0.01%	\$ 1,500.00	0.01%	\$0.00
Elections	\$ 2,835.00	0.01%	\$ 3,265.00	0.01%	\$430.00
SHARED SERVICES					
Buildings	\$ 782,403.00	3.08%	\$ 802,649.00	3.05%	\$20,246.00
Central Garage	\$ 345,922.00	1.36%	\$ 409,465.00	1.55%	\$63,543.00
Central Mailing	\$ 20,000.00	0.08%	\$ 20,000.00	0.08%	\$0.00
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Police	\$ 6,568,970.00	25.82%	\$ 6,635,978.00	25.18%	\$67,008.00
Fire	\$ 317,300.00	1.25%	\$ 338,300.00	1.28%	\$21,000.00
Animal Control	\$ 3,000.00	0.01%	\$ 3,000.00	0.01%	\$0.00
Safety Inspection	\$ 333,393.00	1.31%	\$ 346,602.00	1.32%	\$13,209.00
Civil Defense	\$ 7,050.00	0.03%	\$ 7,050.00	0.03%	\$0.00
Health	\$ 4,900.00	0.02%	\$ 4,900.00	0.02%	\$0.00
TRANSPORTATION					
DPW Administration	\$ 217,189.00	0.85%	\$ 231,516.00	0.88%	\$14,327.00
Street Maintenance	\$ 1,272,968.00	5.00%	\$ 1,403,445.00	5.33%	\$130,477.00
Snow Removal	\$ 48,700.00	0.19%	\$ 61,700.00	0.23%	\$13,000.00
Street Lighting	\$ 165,114.00	0.65%	\$ 165,114.00	0.63%	\$0.00
Off-Street Parking	\$ 162,708.00	0.64%	\$ 161,908.00	0.61%	(\$800.00)
PUBLICITY	\$ 27,000.00	0.11%	\$ 27,000.00	0.10%	\$0.00
CULTURE AND RECREATION					
Programs for the Aging	\$ 9,640.00	0.04%	\$ 9,640.00	0.04%	\$0.00
Parks	\$ 266,597.00	1.05%	\$ 330,333.00	1.25%	\$63,736.00
Playgrounds, Recreation Centers	\$ 578,925.00	2.28%	\$ 596,337.00	2.26%	\$17,412.00
Youth Programs and Projects	\$ 142,206.00	0.56%	\$ 142,206.00	0.54%	\$0.00
Historian	\$ 250.00	0.00%	\$ 250.00	0.00%	\$0.00
Celebrations	\$ 52,500.00	0.21%	\$ 52,500.00	0.20%	\$0.00
HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES					
Zoning & Planning	\$ 36,250.00	0.14%	\$ 36,250.00	0.14%	\$0.00
Refuse and Garbage	\$ 1,819,853.00	7.15%	\$ 1,833,055.00	6.96%	\$13,202.00
Street Cleaning	\$ 125,354.00	0.49%	\$ 122,007.00	0.46%	(\$3,347.00)
Noise Abatement	\$ 2,000.00	0.01%	\$ 2,000.00	0.01%	\$0.00
Storm Sewers	\$ 50,500.00	0.20%	\$ 45,100.00	0.17%	(\$5,400.00)
Shade Trees	\$ 224,361.00	0.88%	\$ 300,882.00	1.14%	\$76,521.00
Emergency Tenant Protection	\$ 2,140.00	0.01%	\$ 2,140.00	0.01%	\$0.00
Co-op Agreements	\$ 300,100.00	1.18%	\$ 300,100.00	1.14%	\$0.00
VILLAGE GENERAL					
Self-Insurance	\$ 457,000.00	1.80%	\$ 437,000.00	1.66%	(\$20,000.00)
Special Items	\$ 916,532.00	3.60%	\$ 936,509.00	3.55%	\$19,977.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 6,613,940.00	26.00%	\$ 6,774,570.00	25.71%	\$160,630.00
Library Fund	\$ 1,395,927.00	5.49%	\$ 1,416,563.00	5.38%	\$20,636.00
Debt Service	\$ 741,188.00	2.91%	\$ 941,850.00	3.57%	\$200,662.00
	\$ 25,437,033.00	100%	\$ 26,349,844.00	100%	\$912,811.00

COMPARATIVE REPORT

	2013-2014	2014-2015
Appropriations, General Fund	\$ 25,437,033	\$26,349,844
Revenues, General Fund	3,288,537	3,336,533
Appropriated Fund Balance, General Fund	0	0
Amount to be Raised by Taxes	22,148,496	23,013,311
Assessed Valuation (after exemptions)	184,978,378	185,152,093
Tax Rate Per \$100 of Assessed Value	\$ 11.97	\$12.4294

**Important Village of Floral Park
Phone Numbers**

Police & Fire Emergency.....	911
Police & Fire Non-Emergency.....	326-6400
Administration.....	326-6300
Assessment.....	326-6305
Building Department.....	326-6319
Court Office.....	326-6325
Fire Department Chief's Office.....	326-6327
Library.....	326-6330
Mayor's Voice Mail (after 4:30 p.m.)....	326-6300
Public Works Department.....	326-6320
Recreation/Shelter House.....	326-6334
Recreation/Pool Bldg.....	326-6336

www.fpvillage.org

4VS –Cablevision Channel 18 / Verizon Channel 28

Mayor

Thomas J. Tweedy

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Trustees

James E. Rhatigan Mary-Grace Tomecki
Dominick A. Longobardi Kevin M. Fitzgerald

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Village Justice

Douglas J. Hayden

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Village Administrator

Gerard M. Bambrick

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Village Clerk

Susan E. Walsh



We are currently preparing for the 2014 tax collection process. Residents are reminded to contact us at 326-6305 with any of the following changes:

- When there is a change in the billing or mailing address of the property owner.
- The property has been recently purchased or sold. As a property owner you cannot rely solely on the mortgagor or your attorney to notify the village.
- The mortgage has been satisfied or refinanced with a different bank or financial institution.

VILLAGE ITEMS AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL

As mentioned in our prior *Village Items*, in our continuing efforts to reduce costs, *Village Items* is now available by e-mail. Many of your neighbors are receiving this *Village Items* by e-mail. If you would like to receive future issues by e-mail, please sign up at comments@fpvillage.org, and let us know by giving us your name, address and e-mail address.