RUSH TOWN NEWS

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Dear Residents:

Operating Budget

The 2009 Operating Budget was approved at the Town Board meeting of November 12th. The total tax rate per $1,000 of Taxable Assessed Valuation (TAV) will be $4.40 per $1,000 of TAV. Our current total tax rate is $4.25 per $1,000 of TAV. The total tax rate is made up of the Operating Budget, which will be $3.87, and the Revitalization and Building Debt Service of $0.53. Comparing 2008, the Operating Budget is increasing from $3.70 to $3.87 per $1,000 of TAV, while the Revitalization and Building Debt Service is decreasing from $0.55 to $0.53 per $1000 of TAV. The total TAV is increasing very slightly from $265,904,069 to $266,001.508, an increase of 0.04%.

Some of our major costs for operation, such as energy and health care, continue to increase. We continually look for ways to reduce our consumption of energy without sacrificing services we provide. A wage adjustment of 3% is planned for Town employees in 2009. For details of our 2009 Operating Budget, please see pages 9, 10 and 11.

Over the past 8 years, the Operating Budget has gone from $3.20 per $1,000 of taxable assessed valuation in 2001 to $3.87 in 2009. This is an increase of $0.67 per $1,000 of TAV, which averages to $.08 per year.

Since 2001, we have gradually reduced our fund balances so as to maintain a relatively stable tax rate. With our current tax base, we will be unable to continue this practice. If we maintain our current growth rate, we will not be able to provide the services we are now providing unless we increase our tax rate substantially more than we have averaged over the past 8 years.

RUSH DAM REPAIR

The downstream apron of the dam has been grouted to eliminate leakage under the structure. The crews are now working to core drill and grout the vertical structure of the dam. Additionally, the north abutment of the dam will be refaced with a concrete reinforced wall which will be tied to the existing structure. Weather permitting, this phase of reconstruction should be completed by Friday, December 15, 2008.

TOWN PARK PROJECT

The work on the soccer field and ball field had been progressing well until weather conditions prevented us from completing the project. The soccer field and ball field grading was completed, followed by the installation of drainage pipe and adding the necessary base material. This base material consists of filter fabric and 4 inches of stone drainage layer. The addition of 6 inches of top soil began on the soccer field and was more than half complete when we were unable to obtain any more top soil. All areas where the soil was disturbed, and areas where top soil was added, need to be seeded and protected by covering of straw mulch. It is important that these disturbed areas are treated to protect the creek from silt and to protect the Town's investment in top soil from being