

BUDGET MESSAGE 2010

I am pleased to introduce the Woodbine Municipal Budget for 2010. The Revenue and Finance Committee has worked diligently to ensure that our municipal budget is in full compliance with both the State mandated appropriation cap, and tax levy cap, despite being challenged once again by reduction in our State Municipal Aid of approximately \$82,000. The Committee has endorsed this spending plan which calls for no increase in the Local Purpose Tax Rate and uses less operating surplus than budgets in recent years.

The 2010 spending plan calls for a total budget of \$3.5 million. This figure does not include grants that the Borough is currently pursuing or those that are presently under contract. To date, we have successfully obtained Federal, State, and County grant funds from: the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development; the New Jersey Departments of Transportation, Community Affairs, and Environmental Protection; the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (Office of Brownfields Reuse), and the Cape May County Department of Human Services.

In addition to these grant funds, this year's budget maintains funding for capital improvements for the enhancement of our public recreation centers, athletic fields, public facilities, and overall infrastructure. Using this combination of grant and budget funds allows the Borough to gain the leverage necessary to pursue additional funding for future projects in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

The Borough added approximately \$1.2 million in new ratables. This is significant, as it occurred at a time when other areas of the State and nation are witnessing a substantial decline in real estate values and activity.

The Borough also continues to revisit its shared services with other Municipal, County, and State entities, as well as non-profits. The Borough works in conjunction with the Woodbine Municipal Utilities Authority, Woodbine Port Authority, Woodbine Board of Education, and the County of Cape May whenever possible.

The Borough has retired its outside debt, restructured internal debt, and is fully funding our 2010 Public Employees Retirement System obligation. These factors, combined with maintaining a stable tax collection rate, position the Borough favorably for 2010 and beyond.

The 2010 County and School budgets have not yet been finalized; however, if adopted as proposed, the impacts of these budgets on our overall tax rate should be minimal. Obviously, the Borough has no control over the budgets of other entities.

Nevertheless, the combination of fiscally responsible budgeting, grant funds, reduced debt service, a stable tax collection rate, and expanded shared services has helped to enable the Borough to again hold the line on the Local Purpose Tax Rate, without any reduction in services provided to Borough residents.

Having achieved the balance and affordable budget that is ideally striven for, we thus continue to be able to promote an increasingly higher and sustainable quality of life for our residents.

I would like to thank the Borough Council, appointed officials, members of our Boards, Authorities, Commissions, Borough employees, and Borough professionals for their dedicated work for the Borough

Mayor William Pikolycky