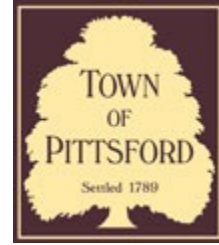


MEMORANDUM



From: William A. Smith, Jr.

To: Town Board

Date: November 5, 2024

Re: Proposed Budget for 2025

Submitted herewith is my proposed Town Budget for 2025.

The proposed budget holds the town tax rate flat, with no increase. The rate therefore remains, for the third consecutive year following the tax cut for 2022, at \$3.13 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

Since 2018 the budgets I have presented to the Town Board for approval, all of which the Board has approved without amendment as to tax rate or tax levy, have cut the Town tax rate by more than 9%.

Town tax remains proportionally low. Under this budget proposed for 2025, for every dollar each taxpayer pays in property tax, just eight cents (\$0.08) represents Town of Pittsford tax.

Therefore, the owner of a home of the average value in Pittsford, which is \$302,100, will pay \$946 in town tax in 2025. Still less than a thousand dollars for the year.

This budget proposal for 2025 maintains all municipal services without cuts.

The bite of inflation continues. For example, in 2025 the cost of medical coverage for retirees will increase by 90%. The cost of medical care for current employees will increase by over 16%. Without the benefit conferred by the Town's membership in the Finger-Lakes Municipal Healthcare Trust – a statewide model for shared services, initiated by the Town of Pittsford – these increases would have been even more extreme. Healthy sales tax receipts this year and projected for next year help make it possible to continue all municipal services without any increase in the Town tax rate.

This budget provides full support for our Pittsford Community Library. It maintains funding for pedestrian safety improvements and measures to mitigate speeding. It maintains the acceleration of repaving residential streets we began several years ago.

The proposed budget increases the Town's funding for Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance, following a cumulative increase for PVA of 114% from 2018 through 2022. It maintains the

funding for Pittsford Youth Services' established for this year's budget. Cumulatively, the Town has increased its funding of Pittsford Youth Services by 88% since 2017. That does not count the extra \$39,400 in ARPA funds we provided to PYS in 2022.

The proposed budget provides all non-elected employees with an increase of 2% as a cost-of-living adjustment. Elected officials receive no increase.

The proposed budget maintains full funding for senior citizens' programs and services, including lunch and nutrition programs. It funds our full schedule of recreation programs, including youth programs; it includes as well our full schedule of Town events.

Taxpayers continue to save money because the Town maintains its credit rating. The Town of Pittsford continues to hold the highest credit rating possible – Triple-A. Pittsford has a higher credit rating than the United States government. This protects taxpayers by keeping down the rate of interest we pay on Town bonds, for such things as the Greenprint, the renovations to our Spiegel Community Center, the Library and our improvements to Athletic Fields and parks. Pittsford remains the only Town of its size in the United States to hold this perfect credit rating.

In relation to the 18 other Monroe County towns that levy a property tax, Pittsford has the 8th lowest town tax rate. If you exclude from the comparison those towns that receive revenue from landfills, and those with commercial areas much more extensive and intensive than Pittsford's, we're the 6th lowest. Despite this, Pittsford provides a full schedule of municipal services that none of the lower-taxed towns offer, such as weekly leaf pick up, yard debris pick up, a recreation program and a Town-financed library.

This budget supports my Town administration's commitment to responsiveness to residents, building stronger neighborhoods, continual improvement and to services of importance to youth, to seniors and to all residents. We continue to build on Pittsford's solid legacy of decades of enlightened and responsible budgetary practices that protect taxpayers. These are the practices and policies that have created the conditions that cause the State Comptroller once more to evaluate Pittsford's fiscal stress as Zero – a Town government with no fiscal stress whatsoever.

Thanks to Finance Director Brian Luke and our Town Department Heads for their work and recommendations in preparing this budget. Our methodology remains straightforward:

- What have residents suggested throughout the year? Which suggestions are cost-effective and have broad public support?
- What will it cost to maintain Town services for our residents in the year ahead?
- What will it cost to make the improvements we seek?
- On the most realistic view and on a principled basis for analysis, what are our projections for Town revenues for the year?
- How do we reconcile this data to maintain and improve services and amenities while best protecting taxpayers?

This is how we continue Pittsford's long tradition of improving services, amenities, infrastructure and protecting taxpayers. The result is the budget for 2025 I now propose for your approval.