



## NEWS FROM THE TOWN OF PITTSFORD

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### **Supervisor Smith's 2019 Budget Cuts Taxes for Residents**

***Budget to help build stronger neighborhoods, supports youth and seniors***

**Pittsford, NY** – Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith today submitted his proposed 2019 Town Budget, which **cuts the Town tax rate by 6.6%** and **reduces the overall Town tax levy by 1.3%**.

The proposed budget maintains and improves Town services. "A budget is a reflection of priorities, and this budget states this administration's priorities clearly," said Supervisor Smith. "We are lowering taxes for Pittsford residents by cutting both the property tax rate and tax levy. The budget reinforces my commitment to building stronger neighborhoods through additional funding for road repair and highway staffing. We are also ensuring an ever-brighter future for Pittsford's youth and seniors with additional funding to support both groups. Pittsford taxpayers can continue to expect a Pittsford Town administration that lives within its means, strives to do more with less and always puts the interests of residents first."

#### **Residents benefit from forward-thinking planning**

The tax cut keeps more money in the pockets of Pittsford taxpayers without detriment to the high standard of Town municipal services. Pittsford taxpayers continue to benefit from the forward-thinking orientation of the Town administration and its predecessors. The Finger-Lakes Municipal Health Insurance Trust – a statewide model for shared services, initiated by the Town of Pittsford – continues to deliver material and substantial savings every year and will do so again in 2019. Incorporating the Senior Center in the renovated Spiegel Pittsford Community Center now saves the Town approximately \$100,000 per year in rent payments the Town was making for the previous Senior Center facility. Maintaining the Town's credit rating – the highest possible, and Pittsford the only town in upstate New York to have earned it – saves on interest the Town pays on bonding for the renovated community center and the athletic field improvements, and for all other borrowing. The Greenprint Plan, which Supervisor Smith supported and voted for in 1996 as a Town Councilman, continues to benefit taxpayers. Preventing development on the lands protected by the Greenprint avoids altogether the pressure for additional Town and School services, and their costs, that would have been created if the land were developed.

### **Lower tax rate, maintained & improved services**

Pittsford Town tax remains proportionally low. **Town tax continues to comprise less than \$0.09 of every dollar in property taxes paid by Pittsford residents.**

In absolute terms, of the 18 towns in Monroe County, Pittsford has the 7th lowest town tax rate.

**Excluding from the comparison those towns that receive revenues from landfills, and those that have commercial areas much more extensive and intensive than Pittsford's, Pittsford's tax rate is the 5th lowest in Monroe County.** It should be noted that **Pittsford provides municipal services that not all of the other lower-taxed towns do**, such as leaf pick up, yard debris pick up, a recreation program and a Town-financed library.

While cutting the Town tax rate, the proposed budget for 2019 maintains and improves the services that contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by Pittsford residents. It reinforces the Town's commitment to building stronger neighborhoods, to continual improvement in Town services and infrastructure and to supporting youth and seniors. The budget builds upon a longstanding fiscal record that protects taxpayers and reaffirms the Town's commitment to responsible budgetary practices. In a year when many municipalities are forced to override the New York State Property Tax Cap, **the Town's fiscal discipline gives Pittsford a budget in full compliance with the tax cap.** The Town has only ever exceeded the cap in years for which Pittsford residents themselves voted to approve the spending to do so – for the Athletic Fields Project and the renovations of the Community Center.

### **Commitment to resident services**

"The demand for Town services is greater now than at any time in recent years," said Supervisor Smith. "Pittsford is prepared to meet it. The proposed 2019 budget allocates additional resources to meet this growing demand." Supervisor Smith's proposed budget funds **two new positions in the Highway Department, specifically dedicated to rapid response to requests by residents.** An additional **\$337,000 in road repair funds** will allow the Town to become more aggressive in its schedule of road resurfacing and maintenance. Working directly with residents and neighborhood groups is an essential part of the Town's service model. To that end, the budget includes an additional **\$75,000 for community and resident services.**

### **Supporting youth and seniors**

The proposed budget for 2019 calls for **increased funding to support services for youth and seniors.** The **budget funds Pittsford Youth Services (PYS) at \$53,540 – a 48% increase over the last two years,** and fully funds PYS's budget request for next year. PYS provides social services to Pittsford families, including solution-focused individual, family, and group counseling, home visits, crisis intervention, referral to other service providers, parenting support, education and information.

The Town's long-standing commitment to the quality of life for its senior citizens is reflected in the proposed budget as well. Anticipating greater demand for programs and services over time, the 2019 budget **increases funding for senior programs by 8.48% over last year**. Funds support the Tuesday Lunch Program, the Nutrition Program and recreational activities designed for and offered specifically to Pittsford's seniors.

### **Meeting wage & maintenance requirements**

The proposed budget accommodates the increase in personnel costs imposed by the State increase in the Minimum Wage Rate. The Minimum Wage increases by another 70 cents/hour on 12/31/18. As part of a plan adopted in 2016 to deal with this, over the past two years the Town has phased in a restructuring of its wage scales to mitigate the cascading effects of the State-imposed Minimum Wage hikes on wages and benefits.

The **Pittsford Community Library** is now 13 years old and, as such, requires ongoing maintenance. The proposed budget provides **\$87,500 for necessary maintenance** over the year to come, including painting, carpeting and a new HVAC unit.

### **A team effort**

Supervisor Smith acknowledged the team approach taken in developing the budget. "As in past years, I am deeply indebted to our Town Department Heads for their hard work in their planning and in providing me with the data and analysis that have come together in the proposed budget for 2019," Smith said. "With their knowledge, skill and work, and with the continuing support of our community, Pittsford continues to pave the way toward improving services and infrastructure of Pittsford and protecting our taxpayers."

*A public hearing is expected to be held on the budget on Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00PM at Pittsford Town Hall.*

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