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MAYOR MINUTES



HARRISON TOWNSHIP
GLOUCESTER COUNTY,
NEW JERSEY

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April 2018

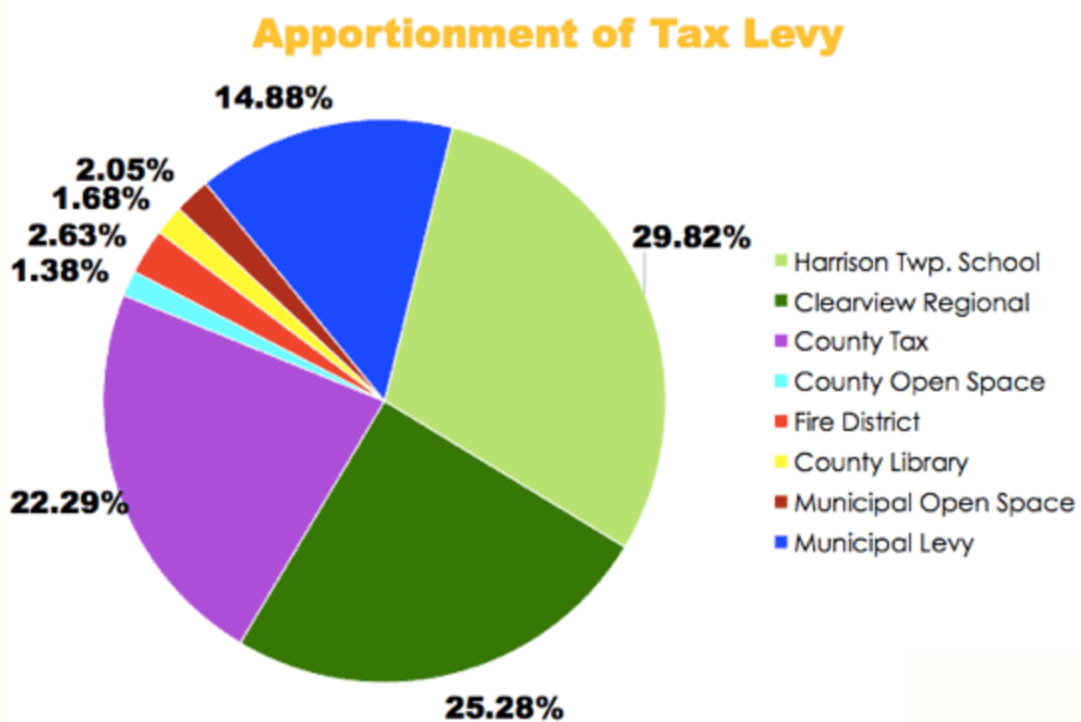
Dear Fellow Residents of Harrison Township,

We adopted our 2018 Budget at our meeting on April 16th. The most significant element of our budget is the appropriation to hire three new fulltime Police Officers, which will allow for School Resource Officers (SRO's) at Harrison Twp Elementary, Pleasant Valley and Clearview Middle School. This fulfills the request of our school leadership to have an officer on location at every school in town and will be a shared service, with the schools paying for 66% of the annual cost. The Capital portion of the budget was fairly lean this year, as we allotted money for equipment repairs and purchases and the repaving of some roads in our subdivisions. As always, we dealt with the increasing costs in healthcare benefits and energy while maintaining the full complement of municipal services.



A PENNY for your thoughts

We are able to achieve all of this with only a 1-cent increase in our local tax rate; from 42.6 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 43.6 cents. That means the averaged-priced home in Harrison of \$341,000 will pay \$1,487 a year for all their municipal services. Broken down further, that's less than \$124 per month. Keep in mind that the \$124 monthly payment made by residents also covers any and all debt we've taken on to provide the services required for a growing community like ours. And that debt will be paid off in 20 years or less. The fiscal plan put in place several years ago has put Harrison on solid ground and the future is even brighter as several new tax ratables become a reality and significantly increase our revenue.



A job well done by Township Staff

I want to credit our employees and our Department Leaders since they are the folks who actually deliver the services. We are proud of the “hands-on” culture that exists in Harrison, with our Department Leaders annually devising their own budgets based on their needs to maintain our community. They are diligent, follow our fiscally responsible

mantra, and ensure we positioned to deliver the best to residents. The results speak for themselves and I would match our crew against any in the region when comparing hometown civic amenities and public services. This year's minimal 1-cent increase follows last years "zero" increase in our local municipal budget. Great Job! I know I speak for the whole community in saying "thank you."

Communication Improvement Plan – MULLICA HILL CONNECT

One of the commitments that we have made for 2018 is to improve the over-all communication to residents. In doing so, we have created the MULLICA HILL CONNECT program to ensure everyone in our community can sign up and have access to township news, current and future events, and to be more actively involved with activities and festivities.



Over the next month of so you will see a LOT of information about this program and how it will further unite the community. Please take the time to provide your information at:

MullicaHillConnect.com

Once you have signed up, you will receive a weekly e-news and event e-mails, the monthly Mayor Minutes, and if you [follow us on Facebook](#), you can participate in quarterly enter to win contests with lots of fun prizes. In addition there will be more

information about our local businesses as we continue to invest and promote buying local to support the businesses that support our community.

It is an exciting time of the year as we head into the spring season and our community activities pick up. I look forward to seeing everyone around town and of course at Harrison Township Day on May 5th.

Together for Harrison Township,
Lou Manzo
Your Mayor



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