

# TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM NEW JERSEY

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TO: All Residents and Taxpayers of Byram Township  
DATE: April 7, 2008  
RE: 2008 Municipal Budget Message

## INTRODUCTION

Every year the Township Council is called upon to establish municipal policy through the adoption of the Municipal Budget. While the Manager and staff prepare recommendations in the form of a draft document, the Council must ensure that the adopted budget adequately satisfies the needs of the community and serves the best interests of the Township.

The budget is divided into several categories as follows:

- Municipal Operations
- Capital Improvement Program
- Sewer Utility

Municipal Operations and the Capital Improvement Program are supported by a variety of revenues. These sources include current property taxes, state aid, and miscellaneous revenues generated by municipal operations. The Sewer Utility is supported by fees collected from users of the system.

The 2008 municipal budget including the capital improvement program totals \$9,558,956. This represents a 5.75% increase over the 2007 budget.

Significant dollar increases were seen in the following appropriations: insurance, pension expenses, trash and recycling program, utilities, and deferred charges which includes payment of funds needed to update the Township's tax maps and special emergency authorized for the tax revaluation.

## APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations are the platform that allows local government to deliver services to its residents. Significant dollar increases are seen in the following appropriations:

Statutory Charges including Pensions	\$130,672
Liability and Group Insurance	\$106,600
Deferred Charges	\$102,000

Debt Service	\$70,601
Trash Program & Recycling Tax	\$66,000
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$65,000
Utilities	\$43,000

**REVENUES**

Revenues in support of the budget comprise four sources including current property taxes 70%, miscellaneous revenues 15.7%, general fund surplus 10.7%, and receipts for delinquent taxes 3.6%.

Miscellaneous revenues are generated by fees, grants, and state aid. Based on the Governor's proposed 2008-2009 fiscal year budget, Byram Township's state aid was reduced \$279,731 with most of the reduction occurring from a 43% reduction of Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief aid. Byram received no aid under the following programs: Municipal Efficiency Performance Program, Municipal Homeland Security Assistance, and Municipal Property Tax Assistance.

Surplus is generated by several sources including cancellation of budget reserves from 2006, revenues in excess of anticipated amounts, reserve for uncollected taxes from 2007, and added and omitted taxes collected. Surplus anticipated in this budget is \$1,020,142 which is an increase of \$29,142 over the amount used to balance the budget in 2007.


**TAX RATE**

The 2008 municipal budget calls for a rate increase of \$0.1206. This represents a \$178.01 annual municipal tax increase for the average assessed home of \$147,109. A comparison of municipal real estate taxes is summarized in the following table. If these trends continue, the Township will increasingly rely on property taxes to support municipal operations.

	2007	2008	Increase/ Decrease
Average Assessed Home	\$147,109	\$147,109	---
Municipal Taxes	\$1,678.51	\$1,856.52	\$178.01
Open Space Taxes	\$29.42	\$29.42	\$00.00
Total Municipal Taxes	\$1,707.93	\$1,885.94	\$178.01

The 2008 municipal budget, as presented, maintains current service levels that residents have come to expect and add to the quality of life for all taxpayers in Byram.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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 Joseph W. Sabatini, Township Manager