

The Truth About the Marlboro Budget

Our Opposition is Desperate and is resorting to an 11th hour campaign of misinformation and mudslinging. The majority of their expected rhetoric will surround the budget. That is interesting, since none of the candidates attended even one of the 12 public budget meetings over the last four years. In fact, they don't even know that the budget has been posted on the Township website since 2002! Here are some facts:

Marlboro Maintains a Healthy Surplus. Like every municipality, Marlboro Township's operations are funded by the tax levy (your real estate taxes) and by other municipal income collected the prior tax year (surplus). In the last budget cycle, after paying all municipal expenses, *Marlboro regenerated \$6.5 million dollars in savings (surplus) even in this down economy.* Our opponents don't understand municipal finances so they don't know that surplus is regenerated by non-tax income each year.

Marlboro's Budget Flat Last Four Years. Marlboro Township's budget has had a *ZERO increase in the four (4) years* of the Hornik administration. This is the first time in the history of Marlboro that a budget has stayed flat and balanced.

Legal Fees Down. The township has reduced all municipal expenses, including legal fees which are *down \$153,000.* Marlboro has spent monies from the COAH Trust fund (a fund consisting of builder's monies, not taxpayer dollars) to protect the township from high density housing and preserve the town's character, and *we are winning.* Marlboro Township was the first in the state to call for the dissolution of COAH and the governor is listening.

No Conflict. Councilwoman Marder's husband, a lifelong resident of Marlboro, has always provided items to the town he loves at his cost. This practice was started by his mother decades ago as a way to give back to the community. Of course, this practice (at about 4,000 dollars per year) continued when Randi was elected in 2007, allowing the township to receive quality items at cost. To be clear, there is no contract and the council has no vote on this issue. Our opponents' shameful slurs about this good deed are simply petty politics at its worst.

No Part time Benefits or Use of Vehicles Permitted. No current elected official and no part time employee receives medical benefits or use Township vehicles for personal use. This is violative of Mayor Hornik's policy and simply a false statement.

Open and Honest Government. Marlboro Township is a fully transparent government. All salaries are published and all budgets (since 2002) are available on the township website.

400 Jobs and \$1 mm in Commercial Ratable Revenue. Marlboro Township's Economic Development Committee has brought *420,000 square feet of commercial ratables to the town, bringing in over \$1,000,000 in annual tax revenue and 400 jobs.* The EDC is working with the landlord of Pathmark (who is still fully paying its taxes) to relocate a business to that location and has assisted in securing an Asian Food Market to take over the ACME location.

Protecting Stattel Farm. The Entron project is a direct result of a lawsuit lost by the Kleinberg administration and takes the place of 125 homes and a strip mall on pristine Stattel farm. The property will be environmentally cleaned up at a cost of 5 Million dollars to the builder and Stattel farm will not be developed with high density housing. Marlboro has protected over 600 acres from residential development in four (4) years – protecting the character of the community.

Smaller More Efficient Government. Marlboro has: reduced the number of municipal employees from 230 to 198; cut municipal salaries of the remaining municipal employees by 11%; and re-negotiated the lowest police contract in the county at 1.8% (less than the cost of living increase).

Consolidation and Shared Services. The consolidation of the MTMUA has *saved all taxpayers \$700,000.00 per year* while the expense of the water division is paid solely by the rate payers, who have had a ZERO increase in water rates. Other shared services with the State, neighboring communities, and the school board have *saved taxpayers over \$800,000.* This is a win-win for Marlboro.

Hornik LaRocca Marder 2011
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Right Direction

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