

## **MAYOR'S BUDGET STATEMENT**

On April 26, the Township's 2022 Budget will come before the Council for adoption. The Budget has been prepared by my Administration and is the result of many hours of hard work by the Administration, Chief Financial Officer, Department Heads, and staff. It should also be noted that the Council contributed substantial work effort to arrive at the final Budget that will be voted on.

The Budget was given to the Council in late February for their thorough review. In March the Budget was presented to the Council for discussion during a Budget Hearing. During the Budget Hearing the Council had the opportunity to review and discuss all Budget items as they felt necessary. In addition, our external auditors reviewed the Budget and provided an opinion on the financial soundness of the Township's finances, including the Budget.

In all Budget categories our focus was to control Township expenses while maintaining the excellent level of services and functionality that our residents expect. That is a challenge every year, but this year it was a more substantial challenge because of the significant cost of living increases that we all have been subject to, which account for the largest cost-of-living increase in 40 years. However, I am very pleased to report to our residents the Budget will result in a 3%, on average, reduction in the municipal portion of tax bills. This couldn't have been accomplished without the hard work of the Administration and Council.

Joe Jackson  
Rockaway Township Mayor