



# Village of Lloyd Harbor

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September 2020

## RE: STATE OF THE VILLAGE

Dear Resident:

I write to update you on developments in our Village and to publicly extend profound thanks to our Village employees. They never shut down, slowed down or slacked off amidst the challenges related to both the pandemic and recent natural disasters. The Village Hall directed by *Clerk/Treasurer Jill Cervini*; the Highway Dep't directed by *Sup't. Bob Schwarz*; and the Police Dep't under direction of *Chief Tom Krumpter* all produced impressive and sustained efforts to keep our Village fully operational during these extremely difficult months. As well, the Board of Trustees and Volunteers who serve on our 7 Boards & Commissions never waived in attending to Village business. It is my great privilege to work with all of them. All residents should be both appreciative and proud of how our Village functions, even under really adverse conditions.

### RE-CAP 2020 TO DATE:

**BUDGET**- After extensive scrutiny & detailed review by Trustees, Department Heads & Village Accountants, we presented a budget for the fiscal year 2020/21 in the amount of \$8,528,081. The tax rate increase was held to \$.34 per \$100 of assessed value, due in part to: re-negotiation of workers comp policy; reduction in LHPD overtime due to full complement of Officers, contract provisions pertaining to years needed to achieve full pay, & contribution to medical insurance; & retirement of bonds (2011 & 12) resulting in elimination of \$150,000 in debt service. Budget summary is appended.

### **HIGHWAY DEP'T CONTRACT**-

A new 5-year contract was negotiated with the CSEA Union. Salary increases range from 0% year 1 to 2.5% at year 5. Starting salaries were increased & enhancements offered for employees with specific skills (i.e. electrician cert; welding cert; etc.). This allows for skilled work in-house & related savings. Individual contracts were also concluded with Highway Sup't Bob Schwarz, & Foremen John Wickham & Joe Talasko.

**LHPD - TRAFFIC**- Spring weather triggered a pandemic-fueled flood of traffic. In excess of 20,000 cars each weekend poured into our Village from all over Long Island & NYC. People long cooped-up, came in droves looking for open parkland & beaches. With the unanticipated volume Caumsett State Park's capacity was quickly overwhelmed. Caumsett management closed the Park, but failed to notify the LHPD. Chaos ensued, but the Lloyd Harbor Police, under direction of Chief Tom Krumpter, quickly added staff and devised a scheme for re-routing traffic. Traffic volume has normalized with opening of more parks & recreational areas.

**VILLAGE PARK**- Realizing the importance of open areas during the early months of the pandemic, our Village Park & beach remained open. **Many thanks to the LHPD, Highway Dep't & Village Hall for facilitating this great benefit for our Residents.** The Recreation Commission arranged for a small crew all summer to handle the Park (gate, maintenance & lifeguard duties.) Revenue from Park Stickers approaches \$30,000, up 25%.

**CAMP-** We make extensive preparations to welcome your children each summer. We waited as long as possible before finally cancelling Camp in mid-June when Gov. Cuomo’s daily executive orders finally focused on camps. There was little differentiation in restrictions between our outdoor waterfront camp and an inner-city day-care facility. We cancelled camp as a prudent measure regarding camper & counselor safety, & avoided subjecting the Village to punitive inspections & fines. Fees of over \$200,000 were refunded by Village Hall.

**IMPORTANT JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE - HARBORS & WATERWAYS -** In June the **Huntington Town Board passed legislation attempting to pre-empt long-established Village sovereignty over waters within 1,500 feet of Village shorelines.** *Two (2) NYS Attorney General opinions (2004 & 2005) & NYS Navigational law clearly uphold Village jurisdiction over these waters. This jurisdictional “grab” impacts Lloyd Harbor, Huntington Bay, Northport & Asharoken, and is clearly an attempt to access fee income. It is but a short leap from this to the Town looking for supplemental zoning jurisdiction over items such as sub-division, setbacks, slopes, trees, etc., in a quest for fee income & control. The Villages intend to fully defend their jurisdictional authority.*

Votes by Huntington Town Council as follows:

**Smyth, Cook & Spvr. Lupinacci - in favor.**

**Cuthbertson & Cergol – opposed.**

**NY State Senator Jim Gaughran**, a former Town Councilman, commented in The Long Islander (July 9, 2020) : *“I am outraged by the Town’s attempts to bulldoze Village authority with this new law. I fully support the Mayoral efforts to protect their jurisdiction to regulate... this law is nothing more than a shameless money grab passed in a virtual Town meeting amid a global pandemic.”*

Senator Gaughran has introduced legislation designed to protect the sovereignty of Villages over their shorelines. Assemblyman Steve Stern (D-12th Dist.) will introduce a companion bill.

**Senator Jim Gaughran clearly understands & supports Village authority.**

**Of interest, Councilman Ed Smyth, who is a Lloyd Harbor resident & who voted against Village jurisdictional interests, is challenging Senator Jim Gaughran in the upcoming election.**

**HURRICANE ISAIAS -** The storm hit 100 miles to the west, but the effect on the Village & across Long Island was devastating. Some 400,000 people were left without power for over a week amidst downed wires & trees. Post Hurricane Sandy, Gov. Cuomo created PSEG, “overseen” by LIPA, & staffed by the same people who had performed so abysmally during Sandy – essentially another layer of bureaucracy. Despite pouring over \$800 million into PSEG resiliency upgrades, the entire infrastructure collapsed, reportedly due to complete lack of redundancy in the system. PSEG’s phone system went down. Contact was impossible, & PSEG was completely unable to dispatch. After Sandy, at a press conference, Gov. Cuomo removed the LIPA sticker on a service truck to reveal the PSEG decal underneath, saying “That was easy!”. As any career politician knows, anything is easy when it’s on the backs of the taxpayers!

With best wishes for the remainder of 2020,



Jean M. Thatcher, Mayor

Cc: Board of Trustees – Burdo; Deane; Hubbell; Patsis; Rolih; Strunk

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE – BUDGET

The Board of Trustees conducted a budget hearing on Tuesday, April 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. subsequent to notification requirements.

Our Budget is always the subject of extensive review by Trustees, Department Heads, and the Village Accountants. After much scrutiny, detailed analysis and resulting budget reductions, the Board of Trustees is very pleased to propose a budget with appropriations in the amount of \$8,528,081. We have been able to effect an operating budget that is under the NYS Tax Cap. Highlights are as follows:

**Tax Levy:** The increase in the Village tax levy reflecting the operating budget is 0.13%. The Village has realized a decrease in assessed value of 0.58% (0.0058) due to successful grievances. As in past years, a portion of the Village's surplus will be utilized to balance the budget.

**Tax Rate:** The tax rate for the 2020/21 fiscal year will increase 0.72% from \$46.14 to \$46.48 (\$.34 increase) per 100 of assessed value.

**Employee Benefits:** This expense represents 26.4% of the 2020/21 general fund budget, a **decrease of 3.5%** from the prior fiscal year. Retirees are included in this number. The Village's payment for Hospital & Medical Insurance will decrease 0.77% due to decreases in premiums. The Village budget for the NYS Employees Retirement System payment has **increased 9.6% or \$14,000**, and the Police Retirement System payment will **decrease 6.7% or \$33,000**.

Below is a summary of the proposed 2020/21 budget, and 2019 NYS Local Government Fiscal Monitoring System report on the fiscal stress level of all Villages in NYS. The Village has again achieved an excellent ranking of 6.7%. This is a tribute to careful and prudent fiscal management by the Mayor & Board of Trustees.

<b>Village of Lloyd Harbor</b>		
<b>2020-2021 Budget Summary</b>		
	Budget As Adopted 2019/20	Proposed Budget 2020/21
Than Real Estate Taxes	1,502,010	1,558,510
Appropriated Cash Surplus	375,000	375,000
Balance of Appropriations to be Raised by Real Property Tax	\$6,585,932	\$6,594,571
<b>Estimated Revenues Other Than Real Estate Taxes</b>		
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$44,000	\$44,000
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	24,000	24,000
Utilities Taxes	65,000	65,000
Franchises	75,000	75,000
Park Fees	285,000	305,000
Safety Inspection Fees	350,000	350,000
Planning And Zoning Fees	10,000	10,000
Licenses and Permits	106,000	106,000
Court Fines	25,000	40,000
Miscellaneous	8,710	9,210
Interest Earnings	2,000	2,000
State, Federal and County Aid	507,300	528,300
	\$1,502,010	\$1,558,510



## Departmental Expenses

	Budget As Adopted 2019/20	Proposed Budget 2020/21
Board of Trustees	110,000	40,000
Auditor	15,500	5,000
Assessment	1,900	1,900
Law	150,000	220,000
Engineer	50,000	50,000
Village Hall	61,400	41,400
Contingent Account	74,600	100,000
Traffic Control	20,375	15,375
Snow Removal	71,800	71,800
Safety Inspection	155,000	190,000
Village Justice	37,560	37,980
Sub-total	748,135	773,455
Clerk - Treasurer	389,105	394,480
Police Department	2,567,503	2,666,549
Marine Police	40,000	54,200
Street Maintenance	818,140	812,604
Refuse	754,306	732,074
Recreation and Park	297,876	337,206
Other: Zoning	2,500	2,000
Miscellaneous	106,930	116,930
Debt Service	392,115	374,140
MTA Payroll Tax	12,203	12,443
Employee Benefits:		
State Retirement	146,000	160,000
Police Retirement	493,000	460,000
Social Security	274,578	279,980
Workers Compensation	210,000	150,000
Life Insurance	3,000	3,300
Unemployment	2,000	2,000
Disability	700	770
Hospital and Medical	1,164,976	1,155,950
Other	40,000	40,000
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>8,463,067</b>	<b>8,528,081</b>