



TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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West Orange Town Council Approves 2014 Municipal Tax Budget *Budget Boasts Zero-Tax Increase*

May 7, 2014 – West Orange, NJ – In a 4-1 vote, the West Orange Township Council yesterday approved the 2014 Municipal Tax Budget introduced by Mayor Robert D. Parisi. The budget for Calendar Year 2014 delivers an unprecedented zero municipal tax increase for the fourth time in five years.

The municipal operations budget for 2014 is identical to the 2013 budget. With this budget, the average West Orange property owner will pay \$260.58 a month in municipal taxes.

This is the fourth budget in five years with no municipal tax increase for West Orange. In 2013, the municipal budget saw a slight increase during Parisi's tenor as mayor.

West Orange has had the lowest municipal tax increases of any municipality in Essex County since 2007. Since 2010, only 10 municipalities out of 566 in the state have increased municipal taxes less than West Orange.

The primary objectives in the formulation of the Township's annual municipal budget are threefold:

- Stabilize Municipal Taxes
- Provide Quality Services to the Community
- Insure that the Services Being Provided Remain Efficient and Affordable

Parisi's administration worked to produce a budget with no tax increase through some of the following measures:

- Negotiated a zero percent (0%) and minus one (-1%) increase for employee medical insurance.



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- Negotiated employee health insurance contributions greater than those required of public employees by the State of N.J.
- Reduction of trash removal and recycling tipping fees by nearly \$800,000 since 2009
- Cutback of non-recurring revenue budget items
- No capital budget for three (3) years in a row.

For the first time in three years the 2014 municipal budget contains funding for necessary capital improvements such as street resurfacing, equipment and building maintenance. It also includes sufficient funding to cover all outstanding contractual obligations for employee collective bargaining agreements, with no municipal tax increase.

“I am proud to have produced our fourth budget in five years with no municipal tax increase and I am happy to have met our budgetary goals. My Administration is committed to stabilizing municipal taxes by delivering quality services to our community in the most efficient and affordable manner,” Parisi said.

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