

Township of Morris
P.O. Box 7603
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TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOURS
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www.morristwp.com

**FIRE AND FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS
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Be Involved In Morris Township’s Municipal Budget Process

By Rick Watson, Deputy Mayor and Finance Subcommittee Chairman

The Morris Township municipal budget is developed deliberately over a period of several months following deadlines and procedures largely governed by New Jersey law. Starting in the last months of each year, all the department heads develop their proposed budgets for the coming calendar year in consultation with the Township Committee members responsible for overseeing each department. Then the Township’s Finance subcommittee assembles all the departmental budget submissions and acts to ensure reasonable levels of proposed spending, making cuts where appropriate to help mitigate the tax impact to our residents.

Once this initial review is completed, the budget is introduced by the Township Committee and a public hearing is scheduled, usually in the early spring. After formal introduction, the proposed budget is posted on the Township’s website – www.morristwp.com – along with supporting information. It should be noted that it has long been the policy in the Township to publish more information with the budget than is required by law.

Public review and comment on the Morris Township municipal budget is encouraged. This is where you, as a resident of Morris Township, can play an active part in the budget process. We want to hear your questions, suggestions, and ideas. At this point, the proposed budget is not finalized and can be modified at the public hearing if input is provided that makes sense to the Township Committee.

We think hearing the budget presentation is very informative to our citizens, even if you don’t have specific input to provide. People are sometimes surprised to learn that the municipal portion of your property tax bill, for which you get police and fire protection, recreation and health services, garbage pickup, road plowing, the public library, and various other services, represents only about 25% of the total tax bill.

All input from our residents is welcome. Even if we are not able to include a given idea in the current budget, it may be carried over for inclusion in the next year’s budget. Just one caveat, please – it’s not enough to just say you don’t like paying taxes; we know that and we don’t like them either. However, we who prepare the municipal budget need to deal with specifics, such as services you would be willing to give up in return for budget reduction. We are on your side in this respect and really would welcome your thoughts.

Morris Township’s Finance Committee has been pleased to be able to keep our municipal budget increases at less than the rate of inflation for several years in a row and we’re proud to keep our local rate at less than half the rate in neighboring Morristown. However, we would like you to make a resolution to get involved, be part of the municipal budget process this year, and join us in looking for ways to improve.