

# Sands Point Report

MARCH 2018

**Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2019** (see page 2)  
**Public Hearing – Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 8:00 PM at Village Hall**

- Mayor**  
Edward A. K. Adler
- Trustees**  
Katharine Ullman  
Marc Silbert,  
*Deputy Mayor*  
Lynn R. Najman  
Peter A. Forman
- Village Clerk**  
Liz Gaynor
- Treasurer**  
Kathleen Notaro
- Police Chief**  
Richard Lertora
- Village Justice**  
Alyson K. Adler
- Associate Village Justice**  
Daniel Scheyer
- Advisor to Board of Trustees**  
Daniel Scheyer

## Winter Storm Riley

Accorded neither the status of a “super storm” nor a “hurricane”, Winter Storm Riley nevertheless caused devastating damage to trees and property throughout the Village. Extraordinary wind gusts felled healthy and un-healthy trees with equal abandon. One large tree fell on the roof and wall of a house, pinning the resident to her bed from falling ceiling debris. Miraculously she escaped injury.

As always, our Sands Point Police Department was prepared for the worst, and this time the storm was short but intense. In the early evening on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Chief Lertora** summed up conditions succinctly: “the Village is a mess of downed trees and wires.” Trustee and Emergency Manager **Peter Forman**, along with the police, worked tirelessly for days to monitor the recovery efforts and work with PSEG to expedite their recovery, which felt disappointing to many. Public Works Superintendent **Brian Gunderson** directed the Village’s contractors clearing debris and fallen trees from roads and maintaining the normal operation of Water Department facilities throughout the Village.

The loss of electricity, in some cases for four days, was a great inconvenience for hundreds of residents, particularly those without generators. But it was the number of roads blocked from fallen trees and tangled wires, 20 in all within a four hour period (including major arteries such as Middle Neck Road and Barkers Point Road), which presented the greatest safety risks. Access by emergency vehicles was impeded and residents were stranded for as long as two days following the storm.

For obvious safety reasons, the Village’s tree clearing personnel must stand by and wait for PSEG crews whenever a downed tree or branch is in contact with electrical wires. We believe PSEG needs to better allocate their resources to prioritize de-powering downed lines at road blockage sites ahead of overall power restoration efforts, although we understand that high density outage areas are customarily given priority. Trustee/Emergency Manager Forman will lead our efforts to pursue all means available to deal with this ongoing problem and will be preparing a special newsletter on storm, power, and related issues in the near future. We have requested a meeting with senior PSEG personnel and will keep you informed of our efforts. Additionally, we expect to review Village policies with respect to aging, damaged trees along Village rights-of-way which are the obligation of residents to trim and in some cases remove.

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## Village Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2019 Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>

I am pleased to report that the Village's tax levy increase for the 2019 fiscal year beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> will remain below the NY State property tax "cap" for the seventh year in a row since adoption by the State Legislature. The projected tax levy increase will be 2.5%, just under this year's "cap" of 2.53%. It is important to note that the increase percentage applies to the total levy for the Village. The Village tax bill for your home may vary up or down by a different percentage, depending on changes in your home's assessed value and other factors that the Village does not control.

### Budget Highlight Summary

As I have explained in greater depth in many past budget reports, the "one-size-fits-all" process by which the State determines each year's "cap" seems arbitrary and largely irrelevant for villages like Sands Point. Our substantial labor and capital costs vary from year to year based on factors we cannot directly control and bear little relationship to the "cap". Over the past seven budget cycles the "cap" started at over 2%, dropped to 0.8% for the 2017 fiscal year, and increased again for FY 2019 into the 2% range. Such lack of predictability and consistency makes fiscal planning more difficult.


Fortuitously for the FY 2019 budget, the higher "cap," the overall stability on both the income and expense sides of the budget, and the predictability afforded by the new police contract allow the Village to increase the important contingency line item from \$434,000 in our current FY 2018 budget to about \$460,000 for FY 2019 (page 5 line 10). Primarily, the contingency line item covers retirement pay for retiring police officers and future road, curbing and drainage projects that will be needed once the final road projects covered by bond funding are completed this spring. To the degree the entire contingency is not utilized for these or other purposes, what is left strengthens the Village's operating fund balance, which in municipal accounting functions like a reserve.

The major capital items that are part of the FY 2019 budget include one new police vehicle, one truck for the Water Department and a backup generator for Village Hall to replace an aging existing system. It is also likely that a natural gas line will be installed from Tibbits Lane to Village Hall.

After a public hearing last fall, water rates were increased to cover the bond funding costs for the installation of the new radio-transmitting water meters. Previous water bonds were funded out of property tax revenues, which made sense in an earlier era when property taxes were deductible. Water charges were not, and are still not deductible, but in our area, basic school and property taxes exceed what is an allowed deduction. (As to that issue, please see page 7.)

The Village Club's calendar year 2018 budget will be presented for review later this month and will be published in the next newsletter. It is designed to be break-even based on anticipated dues revenues. An update on the Club's new management team is on page 3.

**If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please attend the Public Hearing on Tuesday evening, March 27th or contact me or Clerk Liz Gaynor. If you have any questions about how the new tax rate will affect your actual tax bill this spring, call Bonnie Davison or Colleen O'Neill at the Village Office and they will be happy to provide you with a tentative calculation.**

 , Mayor

For the Board of Trustees  
edadler@sandspoint.org

## Other Village News

### Report of Village Auditors for Fiscal Year 2017

At last month's Board meeting, Village auditors RS Abrams & Co. LLP presented the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended May 31, 2017. It was a good report in all respects and indicated that the Village's total fund balance increased by \$478,812 year over year.

### Appointments to Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor Protection Committees

Thanks to all residents who responded to the request in the last newsletter for volunteers to serve as the Village's representatives on the Manhasset Bay and Hempstead Harbor Protection Committees. The Board approved the appointments of **Michael Ertel** and **Louis Silfin** as the respective representatives to each Committee, and **Jennifer Birnbaum** has been appointed as the alternate to both Committees.

### Planning Board Jurisdiction Expanded

At its February meeting, the Board of Trustees adopted Local Law #1 of 2018 after public hearing. This amendment to the Village Code extends the Planning Board's jurisdiction over subdivisions to include the site plan review process for individual parcels within a new subdivision. The Board of Zoning Appeals will continue to have jurisdiction over new subdivision parcels requiring a variance and all other site plan review applications.

### Village Club Update

As recently announced to the membership, the new KemperSports senior management team is now in place. General Manager **Dana Cancellaro** has hired **Benjamin Barragan** as the new Ass't. General Manager; he is a PGA professional who has served as Clubhouse Manager at both Hudson National Golf Club and The Apawamis Club in Westchester. Starting in the new position of Sales and Marketing Director, **Kevin Duddleston** is the person to speak with if your family or anyone you know is interested in membership. A new incentive program makes it extremely attractive to enjoy the full range of Club activities if you have not been a member in the past year.

### Nassau County Roads

Quite regularly residents complain to the Village about the condition of **Middle Neck and Cow Neck roads**. In recent years, the condition of these roads has worsened considerably. The Village cannot repair or repave these roads because they belong to Nassau County. At a meeting a few weeks ago, County Executive Laura Curran promised peninsula mayors that deficiencies in County roads will be corrected under her administration. As the mayors went around the table expressing concerns, the condition of County roads was number one.

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

<b>ACCOUNT NO</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2017</b>	<b>ORIGINAL 2018</b>	<b>PRELIM 2019</b>
A.0000.1001	REAL PROPERTY TAXES..	9,177,533	9,296,204	9,528,600
A.0000.1081	PYMTS IN LIEU OF TAXES..	20,420	20,420	20,420
A.0000.1090	INT/PENAL.-REAL PROP TAX..	82,271	72,500	75,000
TOTAL TAXES		9,280,224	9,389,124	9,624,020
A.0000.1130	UTILTY GROSS RECEIPT TAX..	75,689	100,000	110,000
A.0000.1170	FRANCHISE FEES..	102,045	86,000	105,000
TOTAL NON PROPERTY		177,734	186,000	215,000
A.0000.1255	CLERK'S FEES..	4,215	6,000	6,000
A.0000.1560	BUILDING PERMIT FEES..	427,225	290,000	325,000
A.0000.1560.0001	BLDG PERMIT EXTENSION	119,165	125,000	140,000
A.0000.1560.0003	TREE PERMIT..	8,890	13,000	14,000
A.0000.2089.0001	SP HISTORY BOOK	0	100	100
A.0000.2110	BD.OF APPEALS FEES..	16,103	12,500	15,000
A.0000.2110.0001	BZA EXP.REIMBURSEMENT	166,201	99,600	100,000
A.0000.2115	PLANNING BOARD FEES..	0	2,000	2,000
A.0000.2115.0001	PLANNING BD EXP REIMBURSEMENT	60,518	46,500	35,000
A.0000.2130	PROPERTY CLEANUP FEES..	240	5,500	6,000
A.0000.2401	INTEREST AND EARNINGS..	30,848	30,000	35,000
A.0000.2410	GENERAL UTILITY ALARM RENTAL..	6,486	6,486	6,000
A.0000.2544	LIC. FEE-ATT/CINGULAR-TIBBITS..	73,367	75,568	77,835
A.0000.2545	LIC.FEE-ATT/CINGULAR-SOUTH ROAD	78,775	80,938	83,367
A.0000.2546	LICENSE FEE- SPRINT-TIBBITS	74,008	69,005	71,075
A.0000.2547	LICENSE FEE- T-MOBILE-TIBBITS/SOUTH RD	144,671	145,200	152,990
A.0000.2548	LIC FEE- VERIZON-TIBBITS	99,779	86,228	88,815
A.0000.2552	LIC FEE-VERIZON-SOUTH ROAD	0	54,000	56,238
A.0000.2590	ALARM PERMITS..	61,550	65,000	135,000
A.0000.2593.0001	CSTL.EXP.REIMBURSEMENT	1,416	3,000	3,000
A.0000.2594	PERMITS-OTHER..	2,100	3,000	3,000
A.0000.2594.0001	RD.OPEN REIMBURSEMENT	14,500	15,000	16,000
A.0000.2595	FILM PERMITS	127,915	155,000	120,000
A.0000.2597	LANDSCAPE PERMIT	46,900	45,000	50,000
A.0000.2610	JUSTICE COURT FINES..	86,584	30,000	25,000
A.0000.2611	FALSE ALARM PENALTY..	3,710	14,500	10,000
A.0000.2655	MINOR SALES..	15	100	100
A.0000.2665.0020	SALE OF VEHICLES-POLICE..	1,000	2,000	2,000
A.0000.2770	MISCELLANEOUS..	40,796	500	500
A.0000.2770.0001	BLUEPRINT REVENUE	4,514	500	500
A.0000.2770.0002	POLICE O/T FILMING	118,855	80,000	75,000
A.0000.2770.0003	FILM ADMIN FEE	29,481	20,000	20,000
TOTAL FEES		1,849,826	1,585,725	1,679,020
A.0000.3001	STATE AID..	19,392	17,000	20,000
A.0000.3005	MORTGAGE TAX..	206,939	190,000	200,000
A.0000.3060	DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT..	4,900	3,000	3,000
A.0000.3501	C.H.I.P.S. PROGRAM..	129,626	88,000	88,000
A.0000.5301	WK COMP REFUND..	13,164	5,000	30,000
TOTAL AID		374,021	303,000	341,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>11,681,805</b>	<b>11,463,849</b>	<b>11,859,040</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2017</b>	<b>ORIGINAL 2018</b>	<b>PRELIM 2019</b>
TOTAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES	17,276	46,500	45,000
TOTAL COURT	18,834	23,050	23,500
TOTAL ACCT & AUDITORING	40,662	44,840	42,850
TOTAL VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION	394,315	464,965	484,215
TOTAL VILLAGE ATTORNEY	167,262	133,000	143,000
TOTAL ELECTION	2,037	2,300	2,200
TOTAL VILLAGE HALL	155,559	128,500	198,700
TOTAL INSURANCE	106,239	112,079	117,685
TOTAL SPECIAL ITEMS	34,504	38,850	38,850
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNT	0	434,000	459,565
POLICE PERSONNEL	4,278,476	3,989,236	4,071,058
POLICE BENEFITS & EXPENSES	2,109,907	2,241,470	2,382,863
TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION	868,448	879,277	894,900
TOTAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT	100,552	97,500	99,500
TOTAL ROADS	531,612	607,500	632,000
TOTAL COMM SERV / HISTORIAN	519	1,000	1,000
TOTAL BOARD OF APPEALS	179,597	99,600	100,000
TOTAL PLANNING BOARD	54,474	46,500	35,000
TOTAL REFUSE & GARBAGE	557,497	568,831	580,167
TOTAL TREES	69,560	65,000	65,000
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	346,909	332,272	341,458
TOTAL TRANSFERS	697,245	701,038	697,093
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	471,512	406,541	403,436
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE	11,202,996	11,463,849	11,859,040

<b>WATER REVENUE</b>				
<b>ACCOUNT NO</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2017</b>	<b>ORIGINAL 2018</b>	<b>PRELIM 2019</b>
F.0000.2140	METERED WATER SALES..	1,611,753	1,675,000	1,675,000
F.0000.2148	PENALTIES..	11,385	30,000	20,000
F.0000.2401	INTEREST INCOME..	3,838	3,200	3,000
F.0000.2590	PERMITS..	12,625	7,500	6,000
F.0000.2600	PERMIT RENEWAL FEE	0	0	146,250
F.0000.2770	UNCLASSIFIED REVENUE..	25,866	0	—
F.0000.2801	INTERFUND REVENUES..	697,245	701,038	697,093
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>2,362,712</b>	<b>2,416,738</b>	<b>2,547,343</b>
<b>WATER EXPENSES</b>				
<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>				
F.8310.0100	PERSONNEL SERV /SALARIES..	565,359	581,520	604,780
F.8310.0110	PERSONNEL/OFFICE SALARIES..	135,549	142,040	149,255
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>		<b>700,908</b>	<b>723,560</b>	<b>754,035</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
F.1910.0400	ADMIN/INSURANCE..	55,677	65,000	64,000
F.1990.0400	CAP ADD/CONTINGENCY..	0	10,000	10,000
F.8310.0210	PURCH OF EQUIPMT...	17,910	25,000	30,000
F.8310.0215	VEHICLE PURCHASE...	14,825	0	30,000
F.8310.0400	ADMIN/AUDITOR..	5,218	6,825	7,000
F.8310.0401	ACCOUNTING FEES..	16,395	12,920	14,000
F.8310.0410	ADMIN/CONSULTANT..	32,580	25,000	25,000
F.8310.0414	UNIFORMS..	1,207	3,000	3,000
F.8310.0415	EQUIPMENT RENTAL/LEASE..	0	2,000	2,000
F.8310.0420	ADMIN/TELEPHONE..	10,458	14,000	14,000
F.8310.0426	ADMIN/AUTO REPAIR..	10,625	12,000	14,000
F.8310.0440	ADMIN/COMPUTER EXPENSE..	15,938	24,000	30,000
F.8310.0460	ADMIN/SUPPLIES..	4,547	7,000	9,000
F.8310.0461	PLANT/SUPPLIES..	8,937	10,000	10,000
F.8310.0463	ADMIN/POSTAGE..	4,106	6,000	6,000
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>198,423</b>	<b>222,745</b>	<b>268,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>				
F.8320.0200	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS..	12,353	25,000	32,000
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>				
F.8320.0400	LIGHT & HEAT..	196,342	185,000	190,000
F.8320.0410	ENGINEER FEES..	55,670	25,000	25,000
F.8320.0411	LAB FEES..	33,256	30,000	35,000
F.8320.0414	MAINTENANCE ALARMS/SITES..	12,799	18,000	18,000
F.8320.0424	REPAIR TO EQUIP/DISTRIB...	121,491	80,000	90,000
F.8320.0444	DISTRIB/MISCELLANEOUS..	11,095	8,000	8,000
F.8320.0450	CHEMICALS-OTHER..	16,330	22,000	18,000
F.8320.0460	DISTRIB/CAUSTIC..	34,123	55,000	40,000
F.8320.0464	TRAINING,ASSOC DUES,TRAV...	1,533	3,000	3,000
F.8320.0480	WATER PURCHASE..	81,165	50,000	50,000
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTION</b>		<b>563,804</b>	<b>476,000</b>	<b>477,000</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>				
F.9010.0800	BENEFITS/NYS RETIREMENT..	72,238	67,100	65,763
F.9030.0800	BENEFITS/SOCIAL SECURITY..	50,653	49,975	52,000
F.9035.0802	NYS EMPLOYER -MCTMT	2,434	2,700	2,900
F.9040.0800	WORKERS COMP..	25,297	36,542	38,000
F.9055.0800	SHORT TERM DISABILITY..	728	875	920
F.9060.0800	BENEFITS/HEALTH INSURANCE..	124,599	150,000	163,000
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		<b>275,949</b>	<b>307,192</b>	<b>322,583</b>
<b>NON OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
F.9710.0700	BONDS..INTEREST	212,677	176,376	224,802
F.9710.0710	BONDS..PRINCIPAL	515,540	524,662	628,219
<b>TOTAL NON OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		<b>728,217</b>	<b>701,038</b>	<b>853,021</b>
<b>TOTAL WATER FUND EXPENSES</b>		<b>2,479,654</b>	<b>2,455,535</b>	<b>2,706,939</b>

## The Loss of Property Tax Deductibility

As you will recall, just before the Christmas holiday weekend last December, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order in response to the changes to the federal income tax law adopted by Congress severely limiting the deductibility of property taxes. The details of the Order were widely misinterpreted by the media as applying to all property taxes payable in 2018. Unfortunately for most villages and school districts throughout the State, the Order only applied, and only could apply, to counties and towns with fiscal years beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Further, the IRS announced days later that it would not extend tax deductibility for 2017 to prepayments accepted by a municipality in advance of the municipality's normal legislative process for budget approval and tax levy. Without passage of an act of the legislature, it was beyond even the Governor's power to override the legally-mandated process for assessing and collecting taxes. Checks tendered to municipalities like Sands Point as prepayment in 2017 for property taxes that would not be assessed until 2018 could not be accepted.

There are ways to channel the frustration, if not anger, felt by many over the loss of most local property tax deductibility. Some of the root causes of our high local property taxes are well within the power of our state government to fix. We should urge our NYS legislators to consider repealing mandates and requirements known as "prevailing wage" and Wicks law. Neither has any direct benefit to the State but cost school districts and municipalities hundreds of millions of dollars of unnecessary capital costs by mandating that employees of contractors be paid at the highest, non-market rate of pay thus making it impossible for many contractors to bid projects. That cuts competition and drives up costs. It is easy to see how municipal capital projects can cost from 20% to 50% more than private companies or individuals would pay for the same project.

We should support the Governor's efforts to explore imaginative ways of restoring deductibility for some portion of the costs of operation of municipalities and school districts. For instance, ideas are circulating about allowing credits against property taxes in the amount equal to voluntary contributions made to foundations or other charitable entities that support and subsidize municipal or school system budgets. This is not something that could be done without State enabling legislation, and we know the Governor and our legislators are exploring these ideas. Whether this approach turns out to be viable, politically or otherwise, remains to be seen.



## **SANDS POINT 2019 BUDGET REPORT**

### **PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING TUESDAY, MARCH 27TH**

26 Tibbits Lane  
P.O. Box 188  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Phone: 516-883-3044

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**



**NorthShoreALERT.org**  
Stay Informed



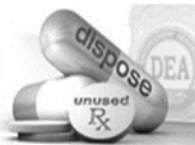
**NorthShoreAlert.org is a mass notification system designed to keep residents and businesses of the Port Washington, NY peninsula, north of Northern Blvd, informed of emergencies and certain community events.**

By registering with NorthShoreAlert.org, time sensitive voice messages from the Village of Sands Point, Town of North Hempstead and the PW/Manhasset OEM may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, email accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices. Village Newsletters are also distributed by the NorthShoreAlert.org system before paper copies are printed and mailed.

The NorthShoreAlert service will be used to supplement current communication plans and augment public safety/first responder services.

So if you haven't done so already - **SIGN UP** — go to **NorthShoreAlert.org**

**Got Drugs?**



**Sands Point Police Department to participate in  
National Prescription Take-Back Day.  
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
at Village Hall From 10am to 2pm**