

# Sands Point Report

## **Sands Point Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2017** Budget Hearing – Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 8:00 PM at Village Hall

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

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It's nice to report some good news about Village property taxes for the 2017 fiscal year beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>; the **projected increase of about 0.6%** will be the smallest increase in the Village's tax levy since 2010. This coming fiscal year, the fifth since the property tax "cap" legislation was adopted by NY State, has the most restrictive cap yet imposed of 0.8%. So Sands Point will remain under this year's cap as it has for each prior year.

It is important to note that the increase percentage applies to the total levy for the Village, not necessarily to your home's tax amount. Your Village tax bill may vary up or down, depending on your home's assessed value and other factors.

**The "Albany Squeeze"**

It's not a dance but a difficult fiscal vise for municipalities like ours with substantial payrolls and infrastructures requiring major capital re-investment.

- On the one hand, Albany imposes an unrealistic and somewhat arbitrary tax cap, more so than ever this year, that incentivizes boards to avoid or defer needed long-term investments in infrastructure, and/or cut the quality of service to constituents, and/or hire less qualified employees, and generally make less conservative budget decisions all for the political "prize" of staying within the cap. Keeping property taxes as low as possible while making prudent, long term decisions about capital needs and quality of service has always been the Board's goal, long before the cap came along. Legislative action to include within the cap calculation an exemption or adjustment for capital infrastructure investment and increases in State mandates hasn't happened.

- On the other hand, Albany has established a fiscal stress monitoring program that awards negative points to municipalities with reduced fund balance reserves, even a small deficit in any of three prior fiscal years, and other common by-products of under-budgeting, reduced contingencies, and other fiscal actions to stay within the cap.

So does a village override the cap and hope that its residents understand why it's needed, or does it draw down reserves, risk deficits from under-budgeting, defer needed infrastructure projects, etc. to stay within the cap but risk a higher stress rating? These are tough choices, hence the "Albany Squeeze".

Continued on page 2...

## Here are some of the highlights of the 2017 budget:

- **RISING COSTS** include NYS employee health care plan up \$81,000 (9%), and snow removal annual contract, up \$85,000 (25%) from last year's budget. The last snow removal contract made five years ago held down costs for the Village through a period of increased annual snowfall. The new five-year contract negotiated after a second-round bid process last fall limits increases for the remaining four years of the contract to less than 1% per annum.
- **FALLING COSTS** include NYS Pension contribution estimated to be down \$44,000 (4%) compared with six-figure increases the Village had to bear a few years ago and property tax refunds, now at a fraction of the level of a few years ago and continuing to fall.
- **RISING REVENUE** includes anticipated increases in building permit fees and film permit fees.
- **FALLING REVENUE** in the amount of \$139,000 results from last year's closing of two water tower cell sites by Metro One.

## OTHER NOTABLE BUDGET FACTORS

- **Police Department** turnover in recent years has reduced the average officer's age/tenure, which helps limit the annual gross salary cost under the PBA contract. Only one new police vehicle will be purchased in the coming year; last year we needed to purchase two. This year's budget provides additional contingency for officer retirement payouts. The Village has no control over retirement decisions by the individual officers, but a new program gives officers an incentive for setting a retirement date more than a year in advance; that's very helpful for long range planning.
- The **road bond** funding of \$5,000,000 last year will enable the Village to complete in one year needed road and drainage work normally spread out over five years. This substantially reduces the road repaving expenditure line item in the budget but still permits an increased budget contingency that should enable the Village to build a surplus in the general fund's balance. As discussed, that can improve the Village's fiscal score and further strengthen its credit rating.
- Within the budget are several smaller **capital projects**; now that a gas line has been installed along Tibbits Lane, the Village can proceed to bring gas to Village Hall and convert heating equipment. The Village's accounting software is reaching obsolescence, but unfortunately we have yet to find a suitable municipal software package at reasonable cost. The search will continue.
- The drilling of two **test wells** will be underway this month with the expectation that one or both will prove to be good locations for building new wells needed to ensure that the Village continues to have the necessary long-term water supply capacity. The cost of financing new well construction, which will require bond funding, is likely to impact the 2018 fiscal year budget.

If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please attend the Public Hearing on Tuesday evening, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

ACCOUNT_NO	ACCOUNT_DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL 2015	ORIGINAL 2016	PRELIM 2017
A.0000.1001	REAL PROPERTY TAXES..	8,874,167	9,121,429	9,177,533
A.0000.1081	PYMTS IN LIEU OF TAXES..	20,420	20,420	20,420
A.0000.1090	INT/PENAL.-REAL PROP TAX..	53,881	75,000	70,000
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>		<b>8,948,468</b>	<b>9,216,849</b>	<b>9,267,953</b>
A.0000.1130	UTILITY GROSS RECEIPT TAX..	86,833	96,000	99,500
A.0000.1170	FRANCHISE FEES..	77,479	75,000	85,500
<b>TOTAL NON PROPERTY</b>		<b>164,312</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>
A.0000.1255	CLERK'S FEES..	4,328	6,000	6,500
A.0000.1560	BUILDING PERMIT FEES..	284,598	240,000	275,000
A.0000.1560.0001	BLDG PERMIT EXTENSION	117,440	75,000	115,000
A.0000.1560.0003	TREE PERMIT..	10,530	11,000	12,000
A.0000.2089.0001	SP HISTORY BOOK	88	200	100
A.0000.2110	BD.OF APPEALS FEES..	8,327	8,000	10,000
A.0000.2110.0001	BZA EXP.REIMBURSEMENT	84,303	80,000	73,800
A.0000.2115	PLANNING BOARD FEES..	5,000	7,500	6,500
A.0000.2115.0001	PLANNING BD EXP REIMBURSEMENT	63,643	50,000	44,000
A.0000.2130	PROPERTY CLEANUP FEES..	3,026	7,500	5,500
A.0000.2401	INTEREST AND EARNINGS..	5,405	6,000	10,000
A.0000.2410	GENERAL UTILITY ALARM RENTAL..	6,946	7,684	6,900
A.0000.2544	LIC. FEE-CINGULAR-TIBBITS..	70,656	71,230	73,367
A.0000.2545	LIC.FEE-CINGULAR-SOUTH ROAD	74,432	76,293	76,118
A.0000.2546	LICENSE FEE- SPRINT-TIBBITS	97,655	74,262	66,995
A.0000.2547	LICENSE FEE- T-MOBILE-TIBBITS/SOUTH RD	125,107	139,082	
A.0000.2548	LIC FEE- VERIZON-TIBBITS	72,730	74,550	74,912
A.0000.2549	METRO PCS-TIBBITS	67,028	58,891	60,657
A.0000.2550	NEXTEL-SOUTH..	-	-	
A.0000.2551	NEXTEL TIBBITS..	53,277	-	
A.0000.2590	ALARM PERMITS..	60,588	63,000	61,000
A.0000.2593.0001	CSTL.EXP.REIMBURSEMENT	2,292	750	5,000
A.0000.2594	PERMITS-OTHER..	3,400	2,200	3,000
A.0000.2594.0001	RD.OPEN REIMBURSEMENT	17,500	22,500	15,000
A.0000.2595	FILM PERMITS	78,500	71,000	165,000
A.0000.2597	LANDSCAPE PERMIT	43,425	42,000	42,500
A.0000.2610	JUSTICE COURT FINES..	23,810	30,000	30,000
A.0000.2611	FALSE ALARM PENALTY..	11,290	13,000	14,500
A.0000.2655	MINOR SALES..	40	100	100
A.0000.2665.0020	SALE OF VEHICLES-POLICE..	2,000	4,000	2,000
A.0000.2665.0030	SALE OF VEHICLES-VILLAGE..	-	3,000	500
A.0000.2705	DONATIONS RECEIVED..	-	500	100
A.0000.2710	PREMIUM ON OBLIGATIONS	-	-	87,464
A.0000.2770	MISCELLANEOUS..	1,770	500	500
A.0000.2770.0001	BLUEPRINT REVENUE	4,143	5,000	5,000
A.0000.2770.0002	MISC-POLICE O/T FILMING	43,501	45,000	60,000
<b>TOTAL FEES</b>		<b>1,446,778</b>	<b>1,295,742</b>	<b>1,409,013</b>
<b>AID OTHER GOV'T</b>				
A.0000.3001	STATE AID..	19,381	20,000	20,000
A.0000.3005	MORTGAGE TAX..	173,175	200,000	210,000
A.0000.3089	STATE AID/OTHER..	5,239	5,000	5,000
A.0000.3389	NASSAU COUNTY FILM GRANT..	-	49,900	
A.0000.3501	C.H.I.P.S. PROGRAM..	-	88,000	88,000
A.0000.5301	WK COMP REFUND..	-	10,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL AID</b>		<b>197,795</b>	<b>372,900</b>	<b>328,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>10,757,353</b>	<b>11,056,491</b>	<b>11,189,966</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>			
<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2015</b>	<b>ORIGINAL 2016</b>	<b>PRELIM 2017</b>
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	66,884	45,500	51,500
<b>TOTAL COURT</b>	25,115	26,779	27,650
<b>TOTAL ACCT &amp; AUDITING</b>	31,210	34,186	36,900
<b>TOTAL VILLAGE CLERK</b>	355,935	523,485	544,611
<b>TOTAL VILLAGE ATTORNEY</b>	169,166	140,000	143,000
<b>TOTAL ELECTIONS</b>	1,409	1,300	2,050
<b>TOTAL VILLAGE HALL</b>	85,841	125,200	121,700
<b>TOTAL INSURANCE</b>	96,611	112,000	118,850
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ITEMS</b>	49,339	54,150	49,529
<b>TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNT</b>	-	50,000	550,000
<b>POLICE PERSONNEL SERVICE</b>	3,435,292	3,293,110	3,348,462
<b>POLICE BENEFITS &amp; EXPENSES</b>	2,254,057	2,615,295	2,391,453
<b>TOTAL FIRE PROTECTION</b>	838,257	847,993	870,101
<b>TOTAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT</b>	110,244	115,289	115,337
<b>TOTAL ROADS</b>	1,261,706	1,420,000	590,000
<b>TOTAL COMM SERVICE/ HISTORIAN</b>	25	500	1,200
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF APPEALS</b>	101,946	80,000	73,800
<b>TOTAL PLANNING BOARD</b>	63,291	50,000	44,000
<b>TOTAL REFUSE &amp; GARBAGE</b>	518,892	546,320	557,716
<b>TOTAL TREES</b>	34,189	80,000	80,000
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>	309,938	308,740	303,350
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	549,150	587,144	697,245
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE</b>	1,248,121		471,512
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE</b>	<b>11,606,618</b>	<b>11,056,991</b>	<b>11,189,966</b>

**WATER BUDGET****WATER REVENUE**

<b>ACCOUNT NO.</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2015</b>	<b>ORIG 2016</b>	<b>PRELIM 2017</b>
F.0000.2140	METERED WATER SALES..	1,567,716	1,510,000	1,550,000
F.0000.2148	PENALTIES..	36,109	10,000	10,000
F.0000.2401	INTEREST INCOME..	3,743	4,000	3,200
F.0000.2590	PERMITS..	5,500	6,000	4,500
F.0000.2710	PREMIUM ON OBLIGATIONS	-	-	26,236
F.0000.2801	INTERFUND REVENUES..	549,150	587,144	723,481
<b>TOTAL WATER REVENUE</b>		<b>2,162,218</b>	<b>2,117,144</b>	<b>2,317,417</b>

**WATER EXPENSES****PERSONNEL SERVICES**

F.8310.0100	PERSONNEL SERV /SALARIES..	501,026	535,781	566,621
F.8310.0110	PERSONNEL/OFFICE SALARIES..	127,909	128,035	138,942
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICE</b>		<b>628,935</b>	<b>663,816</b>	<b>705,563</b>

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

F.1910.0400	ADMIN/INSURANCE..	54,197	60,500	70,200
F.1990.0400	CAP ADD/CONTINGENCY..	-	5,000	5,000
F.8310.0210	PURCH OF EQUIPMT...	9,419	25,000	25,000
F.8310.0400	ADMIN/AUDITOR..	3,975	5,000	6,500
F.8310.0401	ACCOUNTING FEES..	11,754	11,875	12,300
F.8310.0410	ADMIN/CONSULTANT..	10,275	20,000	25,000
F.8310.0414	UNIFORMS..	1,286	3,000	3,000
F.8310.0415	EQUIPMENT RENTAL/LEASE..	-	1,000	1,000
F.8310.0420	ADMIN/TELEPHONE..	11,463	14,000	14,000
F.8310.0426	ADMIN/AUTO REPAIR..	5,627	7,000	10,000
F.8310.0440	ADMIN/COMPUTER EXPENSE..	11,993	21,950	22,748
F.8310.0460	ADMIN/SUPPLIES..	4,972	5,500	7,000
F.8310.0461	PLANT/SUPPLIES..	8,446	10,000	10,000
F.8310.0463	ADMIN/POSTAGE..	3,000	6,000	6,000
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		<b>136,407</b>	<b>195,825</b>	<b>217,748</b>

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

F.8320.0200	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS..	8,862	50,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>		<b>8,862</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>

**DISTRIBUTION**

F.8320.0400	LIGHT & HEAT..	179,356	185,000	185,000
F.8320.0410	ENGINEER FEES..	-	20,000	25,000
F.8320.0411	LAB FEES..	13,982	30,000	30,000
F.8320.0414	MAINTENANCE ALARMS/SITES..	17,178	15,000	16,000
F.8320.0424	REPAIR TO EQUIP/DISTRIB...	87,740	80,000	80,000
F.8320.0444	DISTRIB/MISCELLANEOUS..	2,449	7,000	7,000
F.8320.0450	CHEMICALS-OTHER..	17,728	22,000	22,000
F.8320.0460	DISTRIB/CAUSTIC..	45,968	58,000	58,000
F.8320.0464	TRAINING,ASSOC DUES,TRAV...	1,131	2,500	2,500
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTION</b>		<b>365,532</b>	<b>419,500</b>	<b>425,500</b>

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

F.9010.0800	BENEFITS/NYS RETIREMENT..	84,199	72,575	58,000
F.9030.0800	BENEFITS/SOCIAL SECURITY..	47,049	46,800	49,500
F.9035.0802	NYS EMPLOYER -MCTMT	2,498	2,400	2,700
F.9040.0800	WORKERS COMP..	23,287	24,860	28,500
F.9055.0800	SHORT TERM DISABILITY..	778	975	1,000
F.9060.0800	BENEFITS/HEALTH INSURANCE..	105,392	129,240	135,000
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		<b>263,203</b>	<b>276,850</b>	<b>274,700</b>

**NON OPERATING EXPENSES**

F.9710.0700	BONDS..INTEREST	174,874	167,144	207,950
F.9710.0710	BONDS..PRINCIPAL	-	420,000	489,296
<b>TOTAL NON OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		<b>174,874</b>	<b>587,144</b>	<b>697,246</b>
<b>TOTAL WATER FUND EXPENSE</b>		<b>1,577,812</b>	<b>2,193,135</b>	<b>2,340,757</b>

## VILLAGE CLUB OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>Budget 2016</u>	<u>Budget 2015</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2015</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2014</u>
<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES REVENUE</b>				
Full Membership (G, includes,T,P,L)	3,130,000	3,028,000	2,944,331	2,589,312
Racquet (T, L)	82,500		300,000	430,279
Racquet & Pool (T, L & P)	118,500	110,000	106,309	108,325
Pool (P)	444,250	335,000	394,999	499,202
Platform (L)	51,000	53,000	0 *	0
Tennis (T)	167,200	309,500	0 *	0
Dining	75,225	80,000	72,999	58,949
<b>Total Membership Dues Revenue</b>	<u>4,068,675</u>	<u>3,915,500</u>	<u>3,818,638</u>	<u>3,686,067</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Merchandise	150,000	162,999	143,880	161,347
Greens, Guests and Cart Fees	657,000	694,215	609,460	627,989
G,T,P,L Other Income	24,000	24,614	24,032	79,711
F&B Member Dining, Special Events	1,250,000	1,265,000	1,226,394	1,217,159
Banquets and Outings	820,000	769,999	792,131	718,804
Dining Minimum	110,000	95,000	109,425	111,170
Hotel Room Rental	165,000	163,000	160,757	152,208
Misc. Income	119,000	149,000	140,457	137,388
House Charge F&B	400,000	407,575	382,688	380,708
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>7,763,675</u>	<u>7,646,902</u>	<u>7,407,862</u>	<u>7,272,551</u>
Less: Cost of Good Sold	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>1,060,539</u>	<u>914,744</u>	<u>929,628</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>6,763,675</u>	<u>6,586,363</u>	<u>6,493,118</u>	<u>6,342,923</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Total Payroll & Benefits	3,680,000	3,676,678	3,790,741	3,633,879
Valley Crest Course/Grounds Maint.	1,208,000	1,144,320	1,107,514	1,097,760
Other Operating Expenses	1,852,088	1,805,474	1,918,877	1,920,543
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>6,740,088</u>	<u>6,626,472</u>	<u>6,817,132</u>	<u>6,652,182</u>
<b>Net Income - Operations</b>	23,587	(40,109)	(324,014)	(309,259)
<b>Add: Non-Op. Income from Club cell tower</b>	<u>170,000</u>	<u>180,000</u>	<u>167,295</u>	<u>156,094</u>
	193,587	139,891	(156,719)	(153,165)
<b>Less:</b>				
Bond (Princ. & Int) less issuance premium	127,000	0	4,032	0
Village Loan Repayment (minimum target)	10,000	0	0	0
	<u>(137,000)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,032)</u>	<u>0</u>
Available for capital Improvements, unbudgtd repairs and maintenance	56,587	139,891	(160,751)	(153,165)

Note that this operating budget summary for the calendar year 2016 does not include capital costs nor does it include depreciation, a non-cash expense

\* As of 2016, individual dues categories are shown separately

## **OTHER UPDATES:**

### **Emergency Meeting with PSEG**

The Village emergency management team met with David Daly, the president and COO of PSEG Long Island, and six other PSEG executives at a hastily-called meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Village Hall. Needless to say, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss PSEG's unacceptable performance in restoring electrical service and allowing the safe-re-opening of blocked roads following the no-name storm that hit portions of Long Island late at night on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Our Village Emergency Managers are **Trustees Marc Silbert and Peter Forman**, who also serves in the critical role of Commissioner of the peninsula-wide PW/M OEM. Peter moderated the discussion, during which Mr. Daly admitted "we [PSEG] dropped the ball" and stated that "we cannot let this happen again." The meeting was a constructive first step, but it will take a significant effort on PSEG's part to overcome the concerns shared by all involved at the Village end. We will keep you informed of further developments in the ongoing efforts to ensure that our residents receive timely and accurate information about power restoration and that the period without power caused by falling trees in heavy windstorms is reduced.

### **Interim Report III – Village Club Budget, Governance Re-structuring, and Project Plan**

As discussed in last fall's Interim Report, the Board mandated a 2016 Club Budget that comes as close as possible to the goal of financial self-sufficiency with respect to both operations and capital maintenance needs. Financial self sufficiency for the Club means that revenue from Club operations and other sources is sufficient to cover all operating costs as well as capital expenditures and the carrying costs of last year's bond funding. Sources of funds for capital expenditures include the operating budget, allocated but as yet unused bond proceeds, and subdivision and site plan deposits into the Village's Recreation Fund.

The preliminary 2016 Club Operating Budget was reviewed by the Board last fall along with the approved 2016 dues schedule. The final budget reviewed in February appears on page six. An analysis of the final budget, which reflects opening membership levels and other refinements, as well as membership trends and statistics, will be included in the next newsletter. The budget meets the Board's mandate, and all anticipated capital expenditures are covered from appropriate funding sources.

An important goal mentioned in last July's Interim Report is to "take a 'fresh look' at all aspects of the Master Plan" in order to develop a Project Plan fully supported by Club revenue, avoiding impact on our property tax base. The core goals of the Project Plan remain the same as the Master Plan: a better Club experience, increased resident participation, and long-term financial self-sufficiency despite a challenging environment for golf-oriented clubs.

Last month the Village engaged James G. Rogers Architects, a prominent and highly recommended architectural firm specializing in country club architecture on Long Island and the NY Metro area. Jim Rogers and his firm will design the pool area renovation project with the goal of accomplishing a badly needed "face-lift" between the closing of the pool next September and the re-opening in the spring of 2017. He and his firm, on a more open-ended timetable, will review the concepts Bill McMahan developed for improving the functionality, capacity and attractiveness of the Mansion as the center of the Club's social and dining activities as well as private events and review the addition of a fitness center.

Continued on next page..

## **Interim Report III – Village Club Budget, Governance Re-structuring, and Project Plan (continued)**

The board established a new volunteer governance structure for the Club this year that provides for seven standing committees with expanded responsibilities which together functionally replace the Village Club Commission. The standing committees are: Facilities/Capital Projects, Finance, Food & Beverage/Events, Membership/Public Relations, and the three sports committees – Golf, Pool, and Racquet. The committee chairs will report monthly to the Board of Trustees and one another as members of an Operations Committee, consisting of the chairs of the standing committees, a chair and deputy chair, and one or more members-at-large. The Operations Committee will not meet on a regular basis but rather as needed when there are issues to discuss that involve all areas of Club operations. A primary purpose of the change is to make more efficient use of volunteers' time. The list of all standing committee appointments will be included in the next newsletter.

### **Volunteer Translators Needed**

Are you sufficiently proficient in Spanish to serve as a volunteer translator in Village Court? The Court generally meets one evening a month. If you would volunteer to serve as a translator one or more times each year, please contact Court Clerk Bonnie Davison at Village Hall.



**Got Drugs?**



## **Sands Point Police Department to participate in National Prescription Take-Back Day.**

**Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Village Hall/Police Headquarters**

The Sands Point Police Department will be taking back **unwanted prescription drugs** on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Police Headquarters located at Village Hall, 26 Tibbits Lane, Sands Point, NY.

Disposing of the medicines in this fashion prevents them from falling into unintended hands or from entering the water table.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Mark your calendar now, **Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10am to 2pm.**



## **TELEPHONE SCAMS – DON'T BECOME A VICTIM**

*A message from Sgt. James Polla*

Dear Residents,

We would like to inform you of some of the telephone scams that are going around. There have been numerous reports of these scams all over Long Island. The three common ones are: 1) from the IRS calling to tell you that you owe money and will be arrested if you don't pay; 2) that a relative was arrested in the Dominican Republic or some other foreign country and you need to send money to them to bail him out and 3) that a relative was in an accident causing a substantial amount of damage and they are holding him at gunpoint until you pay a certain amount of money.

The people that are doing this are very good scam artists. Certain scams are so good that when you call them back, they transfer you around to different "offices" to make it sound legitimate. The elderly have been targeted the most. For example, the scammers will call to say that they, "have your grandson" and the person receiving the call blurts out a name and they say yes, that's him. They will even put someone else on the line pretending to be the "grandson" begging them to send the money and do not tell "Mom and Dad." This really puts the receiver of the call into panic mode, and they will do whatever the caller says. Some of the common ways that you can tell if it is a scam is if they tell you to give them your banking account number so that they can withdraw the bail money, or send Western Union or Green Dot Money Pacs to a certain location. When you do send a money order they usually have someone waiting at the location to immediately pick it up so you do not have time to cancel the transfer. The phones they use are changed constantly to avoid tracking them. No legitimate government agency will have you make out a money wire transfer.

Once the money is transferred, you have lost it. There are really no solvability factors for this for the Police to investigate and the scammers know this.

There are a few things you could do to protect yourself, first and foremost, NEVER give out bank account or any other personal information. A government agency will not go directly to your house to "arrest you" without giving the Sands Point Police a courtesy call first. Work out a code word with your family then ask the scammer to ask your "family member" what the code word is, they will probably terminate the call. Ask them what is your pet's name, even if you do not have a pet. If possible, while still on the phone with the scammers, use another phone to call the person that they are supposedly holding hostage or the victim of an accident. As I stated earlier, these people are good at what they do, but a few simple things can save you a lot of aggravation and possible financial loss.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Sands Point Police Department immediately.

Sgt. James Polla  
Sands Point Police Department



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**WWW.SANDSPOINT.ORG**

**MARCH 2016 REPORT  
INCLUDING THE 2017 BUDGET REPORT**

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Port Washington, NY 11050  
Phone: 516-883-3044  
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**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**