

## TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Wyckoff Adopts 2025 Municipal Budget – Limits Tax Increase While Advancing Infrastructure and Public Safety Investments**

The Wyckoff Township Committee has formally adopted the 2025 Municipal Budget, continuing its commitment to responsible fiscal stewardship while ensuring that the needs of residents and the long-term health of the community remain top priorities. Despite economic pressures facing local governments across the state, Wyckoff's governing body has crafted a budget that delivers meaningful investments in core services, emergency preparedness, and public works—without burdening taxpayers with dramatic increases.

The budget was introduced by Finance Committee members **Peter J. Melchionne** and **Thomas J. Madigan**, who led a multi-week process of hearings and internal reviews to evaluate departmental requests, assess long-term capital needs, and mitigate rising operational costs. The adopted budget totals **\$26,764,697**, which includes a municipal tax levy increase of **\$1,054,137**—an increase that remains **within both the statutory budget cap and the 2% tax levy cap** established by the State of New Jersey.

For the average Wyckoff home assessed at **\$810,700**, this equates to a **\$173.69 increase** in the municipal portion of the annual tax bill. The **tax rate increases by 2.1 cents per \$100** of assessed valuation. These modest increases reflect the Township's focus on balancing essential service delivery and infrastructure renewal with fiscal prudence.

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### **Holding the Line on Costs**

The Township continues to face the same financial headwinds affecting communities statewide, including increased costs for **solid waste disposal, mandated pension contributions, health benefits, liability insurance, and workers' compensation**. In addition, the 2025 budget responds to sharp increases in **electric, natural gas, and water costs**, driven by global energy market volatility and local infrastructure demands.

Despite these challenges, the Township Committee remains focused on maximizing every dollar through careful planning, long-term forecasting, and cost containment strategies. Routine expenses were closely reviewed to identify opportunities for savings, and grant opportunities are actively pursued to offset capital costs where possible.

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## **Service and Safety Investments**

The 2025 Budget underscores Wyckoff's ongoing commitment to **public safety, emergency response readiness, and modernizing public infrastructure.**

Key highlights include:

- **New portable and mobile radios** for both the **Police Department and Fire Department**, ensuring seamless and reliable communication between local first responders and **mutual aid partners** during complex incidents and joint operations.
- A **new Fire Command Vehicle** to support incident command at emergency scenes and replace a vehicle at the end of its service life.
- Replacement of essential **Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** and **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** in accordance with modern safety standards.
- **Funding for architectural and engineering design** of a **renovated Police Department facility**, recognizing that the current building is outdated and experiencing significant space constraints. The Township anticipates launching a construction project in 2026 to ensure the Department can continue meeting the community's growing public safety needs.

The budget also advances Wyckoff's long-term infrastructure priorities:

- **Road resurfacing projects** to maintain safe travel throughout the Township.
- **Replacement of aging DPW vehicles**, allowing public works crews to operate efficiently and maintain municipal assets.
- Acquisition of a **new sewer vac/jet truck**, which will increase the Township's ability to **proactively clean and maintain sanitary and**

**storm sewer systems**, reduce flooding risk, and extend the life of underground infrastructure.

- **Replacement of the 70-year-old slate roof on Town Hall**, undertaken to solve long-standing water infiltration issues in the basement. After careful consideration, the Committee chose to replace the original slate roof **in kind**, recognizing its unmatched longevity and long-term cost-effectiveness compared to asphalt alternatives.

These investments reaffirm the Township Committee's priority of **keeping Wyckoff safe, prepared, and well-maintained**.

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### **Budget Built With the Taxpayer in Mind**

Finance Committee members Peter J. Melchionne and Thomas J. Madigan held approximately eight detailed budget meetings with Township staff and department heads to develop a plan that addresses resident needs without compromising financial stability.

The 2025 Municipal Budget has been adopted **in full compliance with all State-mandated fiscal guidelines**, and positions Wyckoff for continued success heading into 2026 and beyond.