

Tentative Budget for FY 2015/2016

April Calendar

- 6 & 20** Village Bd. Mtg.
- 14 & 28** Planning Bd. Mtg.
- 8** Zoning Bd. Of Appeals
- 1** Cons. Advisory Comm.
- 2** Bike/Ped Comm.
- 3** **Good Friday**
- 14** Rec. Advisory Comm.
- 22** Trails Comm.
- 25** **EARTH Day**
- 29** LWRP Workshop

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On March 20, the Village Manager filed the Tentative 2015/2016 Budget for the Village. The total proposed General Fund budget is \$18,620,523. Non-tax revenues account for \$6,862,196 of the total. \$11,258,327 is projected to be raised through property taxes at a tax rate of \$254.368 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. This rate represents a 1.15% tax rate increase. Total appropriations are proposed to increase by \$405,720, an increase of 2.22%.

The proposed budget falls within the requirements of the NYS Property Tax Levy Cap which is now in its fourth year. The allowable increase for the 2015/2016 fiscal year was capped at 1.79% of the previous year's levy or \$198,270. Last year's levy was \$11,065,131. Adding the allowable increase of \$198,270 would permit a levy of \$11,263,401 for 2015/2016. The proposed tentative budget is \$5,074 below the levy permitted under the Tax Cap law.

Following a lengthy process of departmental reviews, most departments' expenses have remained flat excepting salaries reflecting contractual obligations or small increases for the 17 non-contractual personnel.

Non-tax revenues represent 36.85% of the overall revenue sources. The projected increase for non-tax revenues is \$217,997 reflecting County sales tax of \$1,155,000, ambulance charges of \$190,000, parking lot income of \$3,225,000, park and recreation fees of \$250,000, and various other fees and permit charges. The Village's overall assessed valuation also increased for the coming year by a total of \$258,860. As in past years, the Village Manager is recommending the use of \$500,000 from the Fund Balance in the coming year's budget but no appropriation

from the Retirement Reserve. Increased costs of health insurance and debt service are reflected in the proposed budget. Health insurance premiums increased \$156,662. All employees, contractual and non-contractual will be making contributions. An increase of \$49,015 in short-term debt reflects planned short-term borrowing that is amortized over 5 years, saving substantial accrued interest if borrowed as long-term debt. An increase of \$84,876 is included for long-term debt.

The Water Fund budget is proposed at \$2,560,334, an increase of \$215,738, due to expenses related to the Water departments' cost of operations. An increase in water rates for the average water customer to \$7.53 per 100 cubic feet of consumption is proposed from its current \$6.69 per 100 cubic feet of consumption. High usage customers would have corresponding rate increases as well.

The Sewer Fund also has a proposed increase to \$262,291 from \$248,174. This results in an increased sewer rate of \$0.8905 from \$0.6405 per 100 cubic feet of water consumption. Sewer rates are based on water consumption and voluntary water use restrictions during 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the Harmon water infrastructure project have adversely affected sewer revenues.

Over the coming weeks, the Village Board will be meeting to review all the departmental budgets and funds. All the sessions are open to the public and will be held in the meeting room in the Municipal Building beginning at 7:30 pm. See page 3 for the schedule. The full budget is available on the Village website and paper copies can be viewed in the Village Office and at the Croton Free Library.



Earth Day in Croton

Celebration of Earth Day in Croton includes a wonderful schedule of activities, exhibits and demonstrations. The annual celebration is sponsored by the Croton Conservation Advisory Council and will be held at Vassallo Park on Saturday, April 25 from 9am to 2pm.

Families will be able to take a bird walk led by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, participate in a plant swap in the morning as well as an Earth Yoga class. Learn from Chris Letts about Funny Fish of the Hudson River,



Jim Gmelin will talk about invasive plants and Care of Trees will provide information on tree care and shrubs. Learn about the relationship between Croton's Duck Pond and Stormwater Management from Karalyn Lamb. Hudson Valley Apiaries will be present with Beekeeping information. Susan Chasen

from Organic Kitchen will be present as well.

Enjoy a family fun day while learning valuable information about our local environment. There will be free hand-outs for those who take advantage of this year's Earth Day activities including native trees from DEC, t-shirts, bags and other surprises. The Blue Pig will have a vendor stand as well.

Additional participants are Ferry Sloops, Westchester Land Trust, Teatown Lake Reservation, music by Croton's Dave Goldman, Trails Committee, Sustainability Committee, Hemlock Hills Farm, Energize NY, Croton Arboretum and many others.

Photo ID's

With summer just around the corner, you want to be sure you are able to take full advantage of Village parks and programs, many of which require a Village Photo ID. The Recreation Dept. issues Village ID's to Village and School District residents on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Proof of residency is a valid driver's license and a current utility or tax bill. Fees are \$9 for residents and \$16 for school district residents. Village Seniors are free and School District Seniors are \$10.

The ID is required for entrance into certain Village parks such as Senasqua and Silver Lake Parks, for registration for certain activities such as playing golf at Hudson National Golf Course and for pavilion rental at Senasqua Park.

Photo ID's are valid for three years.

LWRP Being Updated

In 1992, the Village adopted its own local version of the NYS Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Resources and Inland Waterways Act. This act is in accordance with the Federal Coastal Zone Act. The NYS law established 44 state-wide policies which are adapted to local circumstances in the Village's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).

After 23 years, the Village's LWRP is in need of updating to reflect goals that have been accomplished, policies that are no longer relevant, and the addition of new information to reflect development which has occurred since then. While the LWRP is administered locally, changes to it must be approved by the NYS Dept. of State.

The Village has engaged the firm of Buckhurst, Fish and Jacquemart (BFJ) to help update its LWRP. As part of the update process, BFJ will conduct two public input workshops to gather information and ideas as well as provide residents with an overview of the LWRP. The first such workshop will be held on April 29 at 7:30 pm at the Harmon Firehouse.

The development of Croton's LWRP was initiated by then-Mayor Roland Bogardus in 1986 and was one of the first to be adopted in NYS. The "coastal zone" covered by the LWRP includes the entire area of the Village. The LWRP provides for the preservation, enhancement and utilization of Croton's natural and man-made resources in a comprehensive manner and ensures a balance between protection of natural resources and the need to accommodate population growth and economic development.

Since 1992, the Village's LWRP has been a significant factor in influencing development along the Hudson and Croton River shorelines. It was the crucial factor in the successful fight against the Millennium Pipeline at the federal level as no other impacted communities had an LWRP on which to base its arguments. It has also created eligibility for federal/state grant money.

Water/Sewer Bill Overdue Reminder!

Utility bills (water and sewer fees) that were due on January 15 and not paid by April 15 are subject to an additional \$100 delinquent fee in addition to the accrued penalties for each month between January 15 through April 15. A delinquent notice will be sent. Bills unpaid by April 15, along with accumulated fees, will be added to the owner's property tax bill.

Reminder!

Offices are closed April 3 for Good Friday Observance

Spring Clean Up and Yard Waste

The Village DPW will be collecting yard waste curbside during the spring, summer and fall months (April through October). All yard waste must be placed in biodegradable leaf bags or open top garbage cans. Yard waste in plastic bags will NOT be collected. Yard waste put out with the garbage or mixed in with garbage will not be collected.

Beginning this month, yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays:

- On the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, yard waste will be collected from homes north of Route 129 (Maple St.)
- On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, yard waste will be collected from homes south of Route 129 (Maple Street).

There will be no yard waste collected on 5th Wednesdays of any month.

What yard waste will be collected? Leaves, raked up



yard waste, small twigs, flowers, hedge trimmings may be placed in biodegradable leaf bags. Also small branches that are cut into lengths not exceeding 4 feet and are tied in bundles no greater than 18" in diameter. No more than two such

bundles of small branches can be collected in each cycle. Tree trunks, stumps, large limbs over 4' in diameter, dirt, sod, stones, concrete and bricks are not accepted. Grass clippings should be left on the lawn.

Harmon Firehouse Emergency Center

At the request of Dr. Edward Furhman, Jr., Superintendent of the Croton-Harmon School District, the Board of Trustees has agreed to the school district's use of the Harmon Firehouse as an emergency center. It would be utilized for the gathering of parents and dissemination of information if needed.



The request is part of the district's development of emergency planning protocols.

The Village Board authorized the Village Manager and Fire Department to work out the details of

the arrangement with the School District.

Harmon Firehouse is currently the designated emergency center for Village government in the event that the Municipal Building is unavailable. In that event, staff would move their operations to the Harmon Firehouse.

Social Membership Proposed at Croton Yacht Club

The Croton Yacht Club, as part of their 2014 lease agreement with the Village, has proposed offering a social membership. Based on a survey of other boat clubs along the Hudson River, the Croton Yacht Club proposal would allow Croton residents with a valid Village Recreation ID to utilize the club facilities including access to the deck and clubhouse and use of the on-site grills as well as attend club events at mem-



ber rates. The proposed annual fee is \$300 (\$200 for seniors and veterans). The fee could be applied to a Full or Associate boat member-

ship if desired later. As proposed, social members would benefit from a discounted rate for renting the clubhouse for an event.

Social members would not be eligible to be officers or attend meetings under the proposed new membership offering. Initially, the Club is proposing 30 social memberships be offered.

While the Board of Trustees has endorsed this proposal, the Yacht Club membership must formally amend their By-Laws before this new social membership can be implemented.

Spring/Summer Recreation Brochure

The Spring/Summer Recreation brochure will be online on the Village website the first week of April. Information on dozens of interesting programs is available as well as signup deadlines and fees.

Budget Review Schedule

There are several Budget work sessions scheduled in April to enable the Board to review the proposed budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. (Two work sessions were held in late March.) All of the sessions will be held in the meeting room at the Municipal Building and are open to the public. A budget must be approved by April 30. It takes effect on June 1, 2015.

A public hearing on the budget will also be held before its final adoption. The schedule for this year's budget work sessions, which begin at 7:30 pm, is as follows:

- Mon. March 23 - DPW, Water and Sewer Funds
- Mon. March 30 - Recreation and Capital fund
- Mon. April 6 - Public Hearing
- Wed. April 8 - Police and Fire Depts.
- Mon. April 13 - EMS, Parking, Court & Admin.
- Wed. April 15 - Extra session if needed
- Mon. April 20 - Budget Adoption

Got a Question?



I want to be sure my children are enrolled in the Village's summer camp program this summer. What do I need to do?



Acceptance into Croton's Day Camp and Tiny Tots Camp is done by lottery so it is important to get your applications into the Recreation Office by the deadline of 12 noon on Wednesday, April 15. The lottery process eliminates long lines and the need to be physically present on a specific date and time.

The camps have three 2-week sessions. The fees

and dates are in the Spring Recreation brochure which is available on line on the Village website.

The triplicate registration form is available at the Recreation Dept. office and at the Croton Free Library. It must be received and paid in full before the deadline. The department staff suggest bringing the forms in person to its office in the Municipal Building during regular office hours on weekdays (8:30 am to 4 pm).

After the deadline, registration will be on a first-come first served basis if there are spaces still available.



Newsletter

April, 2015

Published for the Residents of the

Village of Croton-on-Hudson

Leo A. W. Wiegman, Mayor

Ann Gallelli, Trustee

Andrew Levitt, Trustee

Brian Pugh, Trustee

Maria Slippen, Trustee

Abraham J. Zambrano, Village Manager

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Fingerprinting Available

Croton residents who need official fingerprints for job applications, background checks, adoptions and other purposes, may obtain them at the Croton Police Department. The Detective Division will take the fingerprints, free of charge, with an appointment. Residents must provide the fingerprint cards themselves. Call 271-5177 to arrange an appointment.



Fields Reminder!

All fields will remain closed until sometime in April when conditions make them usable. Please stay off the fields while Fields Closed signs remain in place.

Blood Drive Coming!

Croton's Blood Program Committee has scheduled its next Blood Drive on Sunday, May 3, from 9 am to 3 pm at C.H.H.S. This winter has played havoc with the blood bank inventories. So many drives had to be postponed or canceled because of the weather.



Please circle May 3 on your calendars and if you are lucky enough to be healthy enough to qualify as a donor, help nudge the blood bank inventories to safer levels.

Call 271-7645 or 271-8449 for more details and to make an appointment.