



TOWN OF AMHERST

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2008

2009 SPECIAL DISTRICT BUDGETS SUBMITTED

The Amherst Town Supervisor, Satish Mohan, submitted his 2009 Special District Budget. According to his promise to submit a zero growth budget, the 2009 expenditures for sewer, drainage, and water services are slightly less than the 2008 expenditures. In 2009 we will spend \$26.6 million on sewer, drainage, and water services against \$27.0 million in 2008.

The budget includes \$3,209,000 in capital projects for drainage, \$2,010,000 for sewage, and \$1,950,000 for renovation of water lines. These expenditures were considered necessary to maintain our quality of life. The overall expenditure reductions were accomplished through elimination of vacant positions, reductions in overtime, and postponement of new vehicle and equipment purchases. No workers were laid off. The main budget will utilize savings due to centralized purchasing and centralized facility maintenance. Councilmember Dan Ward has proposed a local law to create an Office of Centralized Purchasing.

Revenues outside of property taxes remained at \$3.2 million, similar to 2008 revenues. The budget utilized almost \$1.5 million from fund balance, while still maintaining a balance of 10% as per the town's fund balance policy.

In spite of cost increases that were beyond our control, such as health care, gasoline, diesel, oil, and employees' salaries, we were able to produce a zero growth budget. Supervisor Mohan would like to acknowledge the help of Councilmember Guy Marlette, who worked with him going through each budget line and giving pragmatic suggestions. The Supervisor is looking forward to working with the Town Board to contain the 2009 budget at the 2008 level.