



Date: July 13, 2020

To: Ralph Andrews, Council President

From: Mayor Francis M. Womack, III

CC: Township Council

Justine Progebin, Interim Business Administrator

Ron Gordon, Township Attorney

Re: **FY2021 Budget**

Preparation of the FY2021 Budget has reflected the difficulty of trying to balance the amount and quality of services we provide to our community with affordability during these uncertain times. Entering fiscal year 2021 has been met with challenges which include the loss of revenue within the Municipal Court as well as other areas of concern. Trying to prognosticate the State's ever-changing direction has not been easy. Already, the Township has been put in the position of having to issue estimated tax bills, leaving our residents feeling uncertain about future obligations. That said, in good faith I am proposing to proceed with introducing the fiscal budget on time (before the August 10th statutory date) with a conservative 2.5% (or 3.3cent) tax rate.

Given the current climate with social distancing in place, the Council Budget Hearings will be held on a GoToMeeting platform. Some Council members have expressed an interest in attending the meeting in person. The Courtroom will be opened and made available for those who wish participate in the GoToMeeting convocation from that location. My recommendation to Department Heads and Administration is to attend all meetings under a virtual setting. The Meeting schedule, which has been set with Council President, shall be:

Tuesday, July 21 6pm-9pm

Public Works, Water/Sewer, Finance

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/906831685>

Wednesday, July 22 6pm-9pm

DPRCS, Clerk, Community Development

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/579856517>

Thursday, July 23 6pm-9pm

Police, Court, Administration

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/327109773>

In years past, Budget Binders have been distributed between the last week in June to the first week in July. As we have been streamlining in other areas, I have instructed the budget be posted in a virtual format for FY2021. In the future, documents will be posted under a password protected section on the new website. However, with the website not expected to be launched until September 1st, documents can be found at:

www.jprogebin.com

under "North Brunswick"

password: [fy2021review](#)