

# TOWNSHIP OF MARLBORO

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**Mayor**

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Dear Marlboro Resident:

When I took office on January 1, 2008, my number one priority was a Department by Department, top to bottom review of our Township Government to find and eliminate all waste and unnecessary spending. I am pleased to report that to date this process has led to a 15% reduction in expenses and an 11% reduction in salaries for all non uniformed service employees as well as a reorganization of a number of Departments, including Marlboro's Police Department, our largest department.

But we're not done. In these difficult economic times we need to keep examining and re-examining how our local government operates. What was acceptable just a few years ago can no longer be tolerated as our Township tries to make ends meet in this great recession.

Over the course of this past year I have directed the Township Staff, with the aid of our professionals, to review all independent agencies and Boards, beginning with the Marlboro Township Utility Authority (MTMUA) (the "Water Authority") to determine if additional savings can be achieved through consolidation and restructuring.

The Water Authority supplies drinking water to roughly 60% of our residents with the remainder being supplied by the Gordan's Corner Water Company. While the Water Authority Board members (a majority of whom were appointed prior to 2008) are appointed by our Township Council, they act independently with little or no public oversight from your elected officials.

In fact, the Water Authority presently has a budget of more than \$5,000,000, 14 full and 1 part time employee.

A management and financial review of the Water Authority we received on November 11, 2009, disclosed the following:

- The MTMUA "Executive Counsel", a long time \$6,000 a year employee, was given a raise to \$176,000 a year prior to my Administration taking office and, with benefits, is paid over \$200,000 per year to supervise the Administrative staff of the Water Authority and provide legal work;

- The “Executive Counsel’s” secretary earns a salary of \$68,500 which is almost twice the average salary of Township clerical personnel;
- The Water Authority has a financial staff of 3 full time employees and 1 part time employee, who collectively make more than \$125,000 per year plus pension and medical benefits, all the while employing a \$75,000 per year outside accountant to oversee their work
- In the face of sharply declining revenues due to the lack of new connections, decreased water consumption, and decrease in investment income, the Water Authority did not cut staff or expenses, but rather increased salaries and benefits;
- We believe 8 full-time and 1 part-time employee perform jobs that can be performed by existing Township employees at no extra cost to the Tax payers; and
- Since 2006 the Water Authority has used its savings to balance their budget.

The conclusion reached by our review is that we can deliver safe and cost effective drinking water, and save more than \$800,000 per year, by consolidating the Water Authority with the existing Township Administration. These conclusions cannot be ignored. A copy of the report can be found on the Township’s web site at [.marlboro-nj.gov](http://marlboro-nj.gov) (click on Feasibility Study – Marlboro Township Municipal Utilities Authority). I suggest each and every Township resident review this report.

The Township Council has begun the process of obtaining approval from the State for this consolidation. Over the course of the next month there will be 3 public hearings on the legislation to enact this consolidation. The first meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 pm at Town Hall. I encourage all residents who have questions to attend these hearing or submit written question through the web site.

In order to achieve real property tax relief we must begin to shed the unnecessary layers of government and entrenched bureaucracy that have existed for too long. I believe this consolidation is a big step in the right direction. I look forward to your support and encourage you to attend the public hearings referenced above.



Jonathan L. Hornik  
Mayor