To the Town Board and Residents
of the Town of Greenburgh, New York:

9.20% TAX DECREASE TOWN WIDE
1.01% TAX INCREASE UNINCORPORATED

In accordance with New York State Law §106, I herewith submit the Tentative Budget for the Town of Greenburgh for the Fiscal Year 2007. The Town Wide budget totals $14,679,237 and the budget for the Town Outside the Villages totals $57,354,008. The Town Wide budget would have a decrease of $9.50 (9.20%) based upon an assessment of $15,000. The Town Outside budget would have an increase of $27.59 based upon an assessment of $15,000. Property owners in the Town Wide would have a Town tax bill of $93.69 on a $15,000 assessed value. Property owners in the Town Outside the Villages (Unincorporated Greenburgh) would have an increase of $18.10, based upon an assessment of $15,000, for a total of $1,817.17, an increase of 1.01%.

My proposed budget is in line with the fiscal responsibility that my administration has exercised and will ensure that are bond ratings will continue to be extremely high. The use of fund balance has increased $589,000, from $2,040,000 in 2006 to $2,629,000 in the Town Wide fund budget. The use of fund balance has increased $362,000, from $4,778,000 in 2006 to $5,140,000 in the Town Outside Villages fund budget.

Maintaining a healthy fund balance, as proposed in this budget, will enable the Town to provide our residents with some comfort that the Town will be able to keep taxes stable in the coming years. One of the major reasons why our bond ratings have increased three times during my administration is because the bond rating agencies have appreciated our “prudent fiscal management” and healthy fund balance. Residents of Greenburgh deserve stability, they should be able to plan ahead – and not be surprised with double digit tax increases.

Having a healthy fund balance will protect the town if there is a big surprise in the future. For example, the Village of Elmsford opted out of the Greenburgh Library – reducing the revenue the Town receives from the Village by over $250,000 a year.
I believe that the Town Board should adopt a fund balance policy for the Town. A municipality entity’s fund balance is the difference between their amount of assets and their amount of liabilities. The difference between what is owned and what is owed. This policy will guide future Town Boards. This summer I provided the Town Board with a proposed fund balance policy. I am awaiting their comments and modifications. Having a policy was recommended by our auditors. Greenburgh will be one of the few communities in the United States to have a fund balance policy. A fund balance policy will send a strong message to the bond rating agencies and to those who review the financial health of local governments that our Town will put good financial planning ahead of politics when it comes to budgeting.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS YEAR’S BUDGET

This year’s budget includes modest increases in the Town Wide budget (less than two percent) and the Town Outside Villages budget (less than five percent) expenditures. The Mortgage Tax amount is budgeted at 4,300,000, $200,000 less than for 2006 and the Sales Tax is budgeted at $5,200,000, $200,000 less than for 2006. The recent declines in oil prices have reduced gasoline and heating costs and the budgets for those expenditures.

SUMMER ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM FOR OUR YOUTH

Over the years Greenburgh has had outstanding camp programs for our youth. We fund recreation camps, camps for the disabled, a police summer youth camp, and operation Crossroads which provides youth 14 years old with a hands on experience in preparation for the working world.

For the 2007 Tentative Budget, I am suggesting that the town expand our camp programs by establishing an SAT preparation camp and a BizCamp for high school students.

The SAT preparation camp provides high school students with a grade free course to prepare for the verbal and math portions of the SAT. The college prep course, a component of this camp, will teach students how to get into college and will provide instruction on all parts of the college admissions process.

The college prep course, a component of this camp, will teach students how to get into college and will provide instruction on all parts of the college admissions process. There will be a one on one tutoring for college admissions essay; college admissions guidance –which schools to
Some communities around the nation have also funded BIZ Camps. The proposed budget, includes funding for Greenburgh’s first BIZ camp. They will learn how to think critically about businesses. They will develop a business plan that brings the learning to the practical.

The Greenburgh Summer Achievement program, which consists of the SAT and college preparation course, is a three week program. I am recommending that the tuition for participants be $450 for a three week program. Campers who meet certain income criteria will be eligible for full tuition. The cost of this program is $57,850. However, tuition paid for by 12 campers, will bring the Town contribution to $52,450. This initiative will be funded in the Town Wide (A Fund) budget and will be open to residents of the entire Town.

The BIZ camp is a six week program for 20 students. Ten will be eligible for full or partial tuition. Tuition will be $600 per student. The total cost of the program is $21,250. The town costs will be $15,250.

Westchester Community College has already committed to $10,000 in kind space and services for the SAT/college prep program. The Westchester Federal Credit Union will provide each student participating in the SAT/College SAT camp course a $50 account award upon completion of the program.

SUMMER DAY CAMP INCREASE IN HOURLY PAY RATE

The Department of Parks and Recreation summer Day Camp personnel hourly rate of pay will be increased to $7.15 an hour. Although the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act does not require municipalities to pay the minimum wage rate for this work, to be competitive with other employers competing for the same labor pool in the summer and the additional requirements imposed by the Westchester County Board of Health for counselors and assistant counselors the hourly rate is being increased.

THE TOWN LIBRARY

The Town Board and Supervisor have no control over the library budget. The Library is given a budget allocation by the Town Board and can re-allocate spending as they wish, without Town Board or Town Supervisor permission. I am hopeful that the Library will consider additional satellite library locations (a storefront) when the library construction starts. Because the Town Board and I have no control over how funds are actually spent, I have asked the Library Board to
provide me with a proposed budget that will enable them to overcome temporary problems while construction takes place. The budget includes funds that were requested by the Library Board. I have expressed some concern about the proposed temporary satellite library plan and differ with the Library Board on some aspects of their proposed library plans during the construction period. The Library is independent of the Town Board when it comes to budget issues. I want to provide the professional library administration with the funds they need so that Greenburgh residents can have quality library services during the construction.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT THE THEODORE YOUNG COMMUNITY CENTER

The proposed budget includes $50,000 for community outreach at the Theodore Young Community Center. If the Town Board chooses to expand programming funding should be available.

ONE ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICER POSITION

Over the past ten years, the authorized sworn strength of the Police Department has moderately increased by an average of about one officer per year. The increased call volume, new programs and the Department's mandate to provide Emergency Medical Services, require the addition of new police officer to the Department. During 2005, the additional demands on the Department together with an unusual number of disabilities actually resulted in a short-term reduction in the staffing of the important Community Policing Program. Because of this, in my 2006 budget I supported the Police Chief’s request to increase the Department's sworn strength by adding three Police Officers. Even with this addition, the Town's police force continued to have one of the lowest ratios of police officers to 1,000 residents among surrounding communities. The addition of this single position will increase the budget by $60,309.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN—CENTRAL AVE STUDY

Included in this year’s budget are funds necessary to commence the updating of the Town’s Comprehensive Master Plan. The Master plan update will provide a framework for future development in Greenburgh.

A Planning Consultant will be retained and the Town Board will appoint a Master Plan Implementation Committee with members representing the Town Board, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Conservation Advisory Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory
Board and the Civic Associations, with the support of Town Staff, to start the process of updating the Town Comprehensive Plan in 2007.

The cost of the comprehensive plan will be paid for over a few years. I anticipate that the work will start towards the end of 2007 and am recommending the appropriation of $50,000 to cover next year's costs.

Included in this budget are $15,000 to undertake an intensive level zoning and planning study of the Central Avenue corridor. The area was last analyzed and a comprehensive re-zoning for this area was undertaken in 1980. Since that time, due to pressures on the local school district from the explosion in school age children, increased commercial vacancies, other development factors, this commercial and residential corridor needs to be re-examined from a re-zoning and traffic perspective.

TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE STUDY

In 1952 construction was begun on a bridge crossing the Hudson connecting Tarrytown and Nyack. A new bridge will have enormous impacts on the character of the Hudson Valley and Greenburgh. The cost of the bridge is at least $14.5 billion dollars. Construction of a new bridge will also create construction-related congestion problems for our area for a number of years. This could result in increased traffic on local streets. I am recommending, at the urging of the Mayor of Tarrytown, Drew Fixell, and the other Mayors of the River villages as well as our Conservation Advisory Council that we appropriate $30,000 to hire a consultant to help us represent residents of the entire Town who will be impacted by a new bridge.

COURT HOUSE

I am recommending that we continue doing what we started last year—put funds in a designated fund for the court house renovations/expansion. The court house needs expansion. Last year $2.5 million dollars was placed in a designated fund to help us avoid borrowing later on. I am recommending that we designate an additional $1 million for the court house—which could be used for short term or long term capital improvements.

THE 2007 BUDGET PROCESS WILL BE INCLUSIVE AND OPEN

The 2007 budget process will hopefully be the most open and inclusive process in town history. This year I invited all the members of the Town Board to participate in pre-budget
discussions I had with department heads prior to submitting the budget. I have also posted on my new blog site: www.pfeiner.blogspot.com some questions about the budget —seeking input from citizens about the 2007 budget. During the entire budget process citizens will have the opportunity to comment at hearings, at meetings and to participate in the process by posting anonymous or signed comments on the well read blog spot.

The Town has three collective bargaining units: the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), the Police Association of the Town of Greenburgh, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (Teamsters). These three units negotiate agreements with the Town on behalf of their employees.

The 2007 Tentative Budget was arrived at after a thorough examination of all items within the context of the Town's long-range financial planning. Department requests were scrutinized and reduced in order to have a workable budget that did not place an undue burden on the taxpayers. The public hearing on the 2007 Preliminary Budget will be held on Monday, December 4, 2006 at the Town Board Meeting at Town Hall. The Town Board will adopt the budget after this meeting, but prior to December 20, 2006, as required by State Law.

Members of my staff and I would be pleased to meet with any community member or civic group to discuss the budget on an informal basis. I can be reached at my office (telephone: 993-1540) or at my home (telephone: 478-1219). I look forward to hearing from you and discussing your comments or ideas.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK — PROUD OF OUR THREE BOND RATING INCREASES

The financial stability evidenced by this tentative budget would not have been possible without prudent long range financial planning. Vigorous collection of tax arrears and other measures have made it possible to maintain fund balance and to pay certiorari refunds without borrowing. The Town's excellent fiscal management was recognized by Moody's Investors Service, which awarded an Aa rating to the Town in 1996, the highest ever in the Town's history. In 1998, Moody's rated the Town's bonds Aa2, awarding the Town its second increased rating in three years. In 2002, the rating was revised to Aal in recognition of the Town's sound financial position. This rating reduces interest rates the Town pays on its bonds and notes. In making this upgrade, Moody's recognized the strong financial reserves of the Town and sound financial management. The Town believes this budget continues that tradition. In addition, the Town continues to move toward even higher levels of financial excellence with improved debt and capital project management, banking services and cash management, and enhancements to its health, workers' compensation and general liability insurance programs. I wish to
commend our Comptroller, James L. Heslop, and Deputy Comptroller, Bart J. Talamini, for pursuing these efforts and in bringing these initiatives forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Feiner, Town Supervisor