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

In accordance with New York State Law §106, I herewith submit the Tentative Budget for the Town of Greenburgh for the Fiscal Year 2006. The Town Wide budget totals $14,404,611 and the budget for the Town Outside the Villages totals $54,738,462. The Town Wide budget would have a decrease of $1.67 (1.43%) based upon an assessment of $15,000. The Town Outside budget would have an increase of $70.87 based upon an assessment of $15,000. Property owners in the Town Wide will have a Town tax bill of $115.02 on a $15,000 assessed value. Property owners in the Town Outside the Villages (Unincorporated Greenburgh) will have an increase of $69.20, based upon an assessment of $15,000, for a total of $1,881.17, an increase of 3.82%.

THE 2006 BUDGET PROCESS WILL BE INCLUSIVE AND OPEN

The 2006 budget process will hopefully be the most open and inclusive process in town history. The Town Board and I have already held two pre-budget meetings in advance of the tentative budget being submitted. A few weeks ago our financial advisor, Ray Hart, met with the Town Board and discussed Fund Balance issues. Fund Balance is a reserve of town funds that the Town can draw from in the event of an emergency or other contingency. Mr. Hart recommended that the Town Board adopt a FUND BALANCE POLICY to determine how much of a fund balance the town should maintain each year. Last week I briefed the Board on the budget – soliciting feedback and input from Board members in advance of the budget submission. I encourage the Board to review the proposed budget and to make appropriate modifications.

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 memberships for wages, benefits and working conditions. We have negotiated a three-year contract with the police union, which represents the third consecutive contract that did not require binding arbitration. The police will be receiving a 3.95% salary increase in 2006. The Teamsters and C.S.E.A. were both renegotiated this year. The Teamsters and C.S.E.A. agreements provide a 3.0% increase in 2006. Salaries of elected officials will also increase by 3.0% in 2006.

THE 2006 BUDGET PROVIDES MORE INFORMATION—NEW (FYI)

The proposed budget includes, for the first time, a section called FYI—-with interesting information about each department. We hope that you will find it interesting and informative.

LISTENING TO THE PUBLIC TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

In recent months I have devoted substantial amount of time listening to the public – finding out what their concerns are. The proposed budget attempts to address the concerns that many residents have. There is additional funding for 3 police officers, 2 sanitation employees and 1 Code Enforcement Officer who will address Town code and zoning violations including storage of unregistered and commercial vehicles and illegal roomers and borders. In addition, the budget addresses infrastructure needs of the Town Court. Furthermore, we are providing additional assistance to villages – funding in the Town-wide budget the SWAT unit and marine unit (part of the police department).

Increased Expenditures

- Fuel costs:
  
  2005 budget       - $549,950
  2006 budget       - $874,660, an increase of $324,650 or 47.8%

- Heating costs:
  
  2005 budget       - $263,950
  2006 budget       - $421,250, an increase of $157,300 or 59.6%
No elected officials have the use of Town cars. I have not accepted a Town car since taking office as Town Supervisor and do not seek reimbursement for gas or mileage from the Town for my transportation. Only a handful of Town employees have been authorized to take a Town car home in the evening. These few employees are in the Police, Public Works, Water, and Parks and Recreation maintenance departments. These vehicles are used for safety and health purposes.

**Revenue Increases**

- **Mortgage Tax – State Aid:**
  
  2005 budget  -  $3,000,000
  
  2006 budget  -  $4,500,000, an increase of $1,500,000 or 50.0%

- **Sales Tax Distribution:**
  
  2005 budget  -  $ 3,750,000
  
  2006 budget  -  $ 4,800,000, an increase of $1,050,000 or 28.0%

**Fund Balance**

The 2005 Budget appropriated a total of $2,665,000 of fund balance in the Town Wide Fund and $3,293,875 of fund balance in the Town Outside Villages Fund.

The Town Wide fund balance is estimated to increase by $1,935,943 and the Town Outside Villages fund balance is estimated to decrease by $625,632 at the close of 2005. The 2006 Tentative Budget has appropriated $1,540,000 of fund balance in the Town Wide Fund and $3,218,000 of fund balance in the Town Outside Villages Fund. The amount for the Town Wide Fund is less than 2005 but, as explained later in this message, I am recommending setting funds aside in anticipation of the major renovations to the Town Courthouse. The amount for the Town Outside Fund is slightly more than in 2005; however, as discussed later in this message, I am recommending that $2 million to be set aside for the Library expansion/renovation. Fund balances are important for maintaining the Town’s strong bond rating. The Town’s fund balance is one of the key reasons that the bond rating agencies, Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s, have
indicated for increasing our bond ratings in previous years to the high level we now enjoy, Aa1 and AA+, respectively. The comptroller and I had discussions with our financial advisor Ray Hart. He suggested that this was a fiscally prudent policy that will impress bond rating agencies.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

I am supporting the Building Inspector’s recommendation to add a new position of Code Enforcement Officer in his budget. This position would be dedicated to zoning issues. The Code Enforcement Officer would respond to written complaints, verify the validity of the complaint and investigate legitimate violations and make court appearances when necessary. The person who fills this position would enforce the provisions of local codes, ordinances, and laws that relate to quality of life issues, i.e., littering, sanitation, noise, dumping, and other similar activities. I propose in my budget to add the position of Code Enforcement Officer in the Building Department.

**BUILDING PERMIT FEE INCREASE TO FUND NATURE CENTER AND CODE ENFORCER**

I will recommend an increase of $1.00 per $1,000 for a building permit fee to partially fund the Code Enforcement Officer. I will recommend that half of the increased revenues be used to support environmental advocacy programs at the Greenburgh Nature Center. The Building Inspector believes that the department should generate about $60,000 a year in additional fees.

**THREE ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS**

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. Unfortunately, the demands placed upon the Department during this period have significantly outpaced the rate at which staff has been added. Because of increased call volume, new programs and the Department’s mandate to provide Emergency Medical Services, even with the increased use of overtime, the ability to adequately cover the entire town has not been possible on many shifts. I am therefore supporting the Police Chief’s request to increase the Department’s sworn strength by adding three Police Officers in the 2006 budget. Even with the addition of these officers, the Town’s police force
will continue to have lowest ratios of police officers to 1,000 residents among surrounding communities. It is necessary to increase the size of the police force to provide the level of safety and service that the Town requires. It’s my hope that the additional 3 officers will enable the Police Chief to restore community policing in Fairview to the previous level. This would increase the Police Department’s 2006 budget by $110,874.

**UPGRADING THE POSITION OF PARAMEDIC AND ADDING AN ADDITIONAL POSITION**

I am including in my 2006 Budget another recommendation by the Police Chief to upgrade the Paramedic Supervisor and Paramedic positions and add an additional position of Paramedic. Advanced Life Support within the Town Entire is provided by a combination of Police Officers and civilians certified as Paramedics. The upgrades and additional employee will increase the Advanced Life Support budget by $69,630.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL ON THE HUDSON RIVER**

Although five of the six villages located within the town abut the Hudson River, they have never had the ability either individually or collectively to mount a police patrol presence on that body of water. To this end, at the request of the Village of Dobbs Ferry, earlier this year the Town secured from federal surplus, a 23’ Zodiac Center Console Inflatable boat. The services of local merchants were donated to make the boat functional and equipment, fuel and other consumables were purchased using funds forfeited in drug operations. A total of eleven officers from Greenburgh, Dobbs Ferry and Sleepy Hollow initially received training in Basic Marine Law Enforcement, water safety and rescue training. In its first short season of operation, the Hudson Enforcement and Assistance Team (HEAT) logged more than 500 patrol hours resulting in multiple vessel inspections being conducted and summonses issued. Additionally, one Boating While Intoxicated arrest was made and a stolen boat recovered. The unit also successfully investigated a hit and run boating accident.

I believe this joint venture between the town and its villages to be most worthwhile. Unfortunately, without a formal funding stream, necessary repairs to the vessel and the purchase of needed equipment cannot be accomplished.
Since this endeavor serves both the town and its villages, I propose the inclusion of funding for a Marine Patrol Unit in 2006 Town Entire budget proposal.

**SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT) UNIT**

At the request of some village police chiefs, about two years ago the police department opened membership on its Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to qualified officers from village police departments. By adding members to the team, the Town would be virtually assured of having adequate resources available on any shift to immediately respond to a situation regardless of where it occurred within the Town or its villages. Although nearly every village sent candidates to the initial tryouts, because of the exacting standards of the team, only seven officers from two villages qualified and were appointed to the unit. Sometime after this, however, one of the villages withdrew its three members because of the expense associated with training the officers. The Trustees from that village met with me and suggested that because SWAT serves the entire Town we should consider supporting it as a Town Entire expense. Upon hearing this, I directed the Chief of Police to prepare a budget to help spread the expense for this important unit across the entire Town. While this budget will not completely eliminate the financial burden of SWAT on the individual municipal entities that comprise the Town of Greenburgh, they will help to offset these costs by providing funding for all equipment and uniforms needed for SWAT to function and a reimbursement of up to $5,000 per officer for expenses incurred due to training exercises. This budget will provide assistance to those villages in supporting their commitment.

The Special Weapons and Tactics unit is composed of police officers that are specially trained to respond to tactical situations outside those routinely encountered by police officers. Examples of these circumstances would be armed barricaded suspects that may or may not be holding hostages, terrorist incidents, suicidal subjects, riots and specialized security details. Since 9/11, it has trained jointly with the FBI and other tactical teams within Westchester to prepare a unified response to potential terrorist incidents within the county. This training has involved the defense of Indian Point, the Westchester County Airport, Kensico Dam and our rail network.
ADDITIONAL SANITATION DEPARTMENT STAFFING

In the Sanitation Department budget for 2006, I am adding two additional positions, an additional Sanitation Man II and Shape-Up Laborer. The addition of these two positions will not only make the job less taxing on the crews, but assist in timelier pick up of waste and recyclable materials. Additionally, during the fall when leaf pick is a major concern to residents, we will be able to move staff to help in removing leaves from the roads and other areas more quickly.

COURTHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

The Town has contracted with an architectural firm to prepare conceptual and schematic designs for a major renovation to the Town’s Courthouse. This project will also include some enhancements to the Police Headquarters Building as well as provide much needed additional parking at the courthouse/police headquarters complex. Based upon the architect’s current understanding, this project could cost at least $10 million dollars. The proposed budget includes $2.5 million for the courthouse improvements that would be designated as part of Town Wide Fund balance. If the Town Board is intent on moving the courthouse project forward, it would be prudent to set aside funds now to mitigate the use of debt to pay for this project. In conjunction with the Justices, I hope that we can complete the review of the plans and make a decision by early 2006.

I have also included funding in the budget for a full time Court Assistant.

A AND B FUNDS BUDGET COMMITTEE

In conjunction with the A and B Funds Budget Committee report, I have sent a letter to the New York State Comptroller requesting opinions concerning about various revenues and expenditures in the Town’s budget. I am hopeful that a prompt reply will be forthcoming. I am, also, having the expenses for Glenville Park budgeted in the Town wide fund (as per SCOBA report and recommendations) along with maintenance expenses for Taxter Ridge Park (as per Town Board vote earlier this year).
WATER FUND

The Town’s water is supplied by the New York City aqueduct system and the cost has been increasing. Also, the various additives that are required to treat the water during the filtration process have increased. Before the end of 2006 the Water Fund will be in a deficit. I will work with the Town Board to address this issue.

THE PROCESS

The tentative 2006 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 budget will be held on Monday, November 21, 2005 at Town Hall at 7:30 PM. I am requesting that the Town Board hold an additional hearing at a village hall, in response to the request of many of the mayors. The Town Board will consider adoption of the budget at that meeting, or a subsequent meeting, but prior to December 20, 2004, 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.

Budget on the Internet

The proposed budget will be placed on the internet in its entirety as we have been doing for a number of years. We believe that we were the first government in New York to publish its budget in this manner and in its entirety. Please visit our web site at www.greenburghny.com.

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 Aa1 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