



# Morris Plains, NJ

*the Community of Caring*

## WHAT DO YOU GET?

### Municipal Services

- \* Garbage pickup 2x week
- \* Weekly recycling pickup/ recycling center
- \* Monthly brush pickup/fall curbside leaf pickup
- \* Road plowing/maintenance
- \* Street lighting
- \* Police Department /crossing guards
- \* Fire Department /fire safety
- \* Recreation activities
- \* Maintenance of public land/ parks
- \* Senior citizen events
- \* Teen center events
- \* Sewage treatment/stormwater systems
- \* Health department
- \* Free rabies clinic
- \* Library subsidy
- \* Municipal Alliance education/ prevention
- \* Administration/elections/ records
- \* Construction/planning/zoning/ inspectors
- \* Borough Attorney
- \* Borough Planner/Engineer
- \* Seasonal town-wide events

### Capital Investments

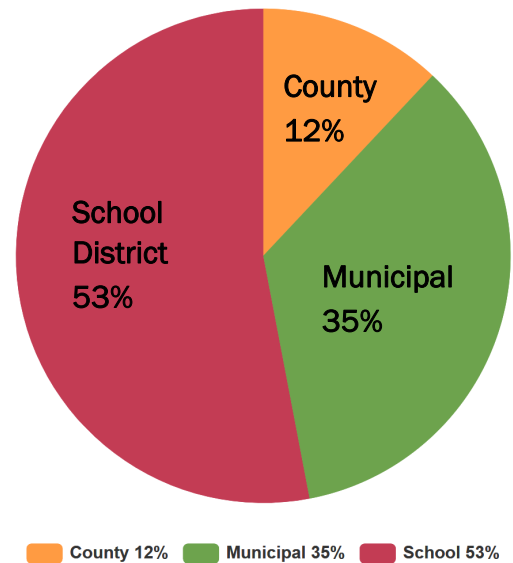
- \* Road Maintenance and Road Reconstruction
- \* Community Center/Teen Center house/Municipal Buildings
- \* Parks & Recreation/Fields/ Trails
- \* Police Vehicles & Equipment
- \* Fire Trucks & Large Apparatus
- \* Public Works Equipment/ Vehicles

## 2020 Municipal Budget

How Your Property Tax Bill is Broken Down

This document was created to share information about the 2020 Municipal Budget with Morris Plains residents.

Earlier in the year, the Mayor and Council discussed and voted on the budget during two special budget meetings that were open to the public. The Council unanimously approved the budget on May 7. Detailed budget information can be found under Town Business on the Borough website.



## Tax Impact on “Average” Homeowner

The table shows parts of a tax bill for a property with the average assessed home value in Morris Plains (\$436,500 in 2014; \$440,043 in 2020).

	2014	2020	6-Year \$ Increase	6-Year % Increase
County	\$ 1,220.20	\$ 1,271.72	\$ 49.52	4%
School	\$ 4,801.50	\$ 5,579.75	\$ 769.45	16%
Municipal	\$ 3,625.02	\$ 3,656.76	\$ 391.74	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,288.72</b>	<b>\$10,508.23</b>	<b>\$1,210.71</b>	<b>13%</b>

## 2020 Plans

**Services:** Maintain level of services for residents

**Capital road improvements:** Grannis, Sunset, Janeway, Parker, Sylvan, Firehouse driveway, Watnong van parking area, paved walkway to train station, Layer Drive sidewalks

**Capital investment:** Trucks and safety equipment for the DPW and Fire Department

**Improvements:** Bleachers at Community Park

**Sustainability:** Electric car charging station, hybrid police vehicle, new LED street lights on Borough-owned property, seek grants to expand open space and trails

**Technology:** Upgrade town computers and systems, website redesign RFP

**Debt reduction:** Aggressively paying down bonds/notes and fully funding projects

## High-Level View

Appropriations	2020
Salaries, Wages, Benefits	\$ 6,308,022
Operating & Reserves	\$ 7,438,400
Capital Improvements & Debt Svc	\$ <u>1,895,150</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,713,572</b>

Revenues	
Municipal Fees & Revenues	\$ 2,796,794
Property Taxes	\$11,516,778
Municipal Surplus	\$ <u>1,400,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,713,572</b>

Almost 27% of the municipal budget is funded by non-tax revenue. This has been accomplished by: a) identifying alternate sources of revenue; b) containing costs; and c) increasing shared services.

## Shrinking State Funding

In 2007, Morris Plains received \$967,000 in state aid. Since 2007, state aid has dropped annually to \$613,886 in 2010, and has remained flat since then, despite the rising cost for education, public safety, and state-mandated expenses for public employees and police retirement funds, social security, and health benefits.

In 2008, state aid funded 7% of the municipal budget; today state aid funds less than 4% of the budget.

## 6 Largest Operating Expenses

\$2.6 M Police Department

\$1.5 M Sewer Fees

\$1.3 M Road Department

\$721 K Employee Group Insurance

\$618 K Solid Waste Collection

\$448 K Buildings & Grounds

## Shared Services

- \* Morris Township: sewer contracts, senior citizen transportation, DPW equipment
- \* Morris County: Health services, animal control, recycling, recreation fields, police dispatching, leaf recycling, warming center, PPE supplies, communication, mutual aid and 9-1-1
- \* Southeast Morris County MUA: water
- \* Morris Plains Board of Education: snow removal, grass cutting, field use and communication share
- \* Hanover Township: communications tower, emergency shelters
- \* Morris Township and Morristown: joint recreation programs
- \* Various: police department Rapid Deployment Team, joint defense agreement
- \* Hanover sewer authority: sewers
- \* Morris School District: Community Center classrooms

## Did You Know?

- \* Our taxable properties (ratables) have increased each year since 2015
- \* 25.5 miles of roads are maintained & plowed by the Department of Public Works.
- \* The town owns/maintains:
  - ◇ 12 buildings plus three sewer pumping stations
  - ◇ 8 parks: Community; Children's; Watnong; Court Road; Simon's; Central Avenue; 9-11 Memorial; Memorial Field
  - ◇ 3.5 miles of trails
- \* The town owns and pays electricity for more than 725 street lights

