

# Rohr plan meets cap without layoffs

## 'Lean' Hyde Park budget gives no raises

By John Davis  
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**HYDE PARK** — Supervisor Aileen Rohr is proposing to increase town government spending by 1.5 percent next year and keep the tax-levy increase under the 2 percent cap.

In drafting her first budget as Hyde Park supervisor, Rohr, a Democrat, said in light of decreases in some revenues and rising employee benefit costs, she has crafted a lean spending plan.

"The 2013 budget has been crafted with a very sharp pencil," she said. "It is a lean budget for lean economic times."

Rohr said the \$8.8 million tentative budget includes no layoffs but contains no pay raises for town staff. Some savings will come from not filling a few employee positions expected to become vacant.

Describing the budget draft as a "work in progress," Rohr said she aims to keep the portion of the budget funded by property taxes — the levy — under the state 2 percent cap. The tentative budget increases the tax levy, including the special districts, by \$114,807, or 1.99 percent, to \$5.855 million next year.

For the owner of a home assessed at \$140,000, that translates to a \$28 increase in town property taxes next year, town Comptroller Tom Carey said. Most properties in Hyde Park are assessed at a little more than half the market value — reflected in its 54 percent equalization rate.

### IMPACT

**Tentative 2013 budget:**

\$8,803,000

**Adopted 2012 budget:**

\$8,671,239

**Spending increase:** 1.52%

**Tentative 2013 tax levy:**

\$5,855,164\*

**Adopted 2012 tax levy:**

\$5,740,357\*

**Increase:** 1.99%

\*Includes special districts.

Source: Town  
comptroller

## Rohr

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"As we proceed in the budget process, there will be changes and alterations, but my goal as supervisor is to deliver to the people a budget that is under the 2 percent (cap) but continues to give excellent service delivery to the taxpayers of Hyde Park," Rohr said.

John Scileppi, a Hyde Park resident, said he is glad to hear the supervisor and Town Board

members aim to keep the tax increase under the cap.

"You have to look at this as the tentative," he said. "I'm sure there is going to be some further changes, as we try to keep it under the tax cap, and unknown expenses that might surface."

Some of those unknown expenses are the final employee health and retirement costs, which the supervisor projects to rise by 15 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

The Town Board is bracing for a loss in sales-tax revenue of \$175,000 if

the Dutchess County Legislature agrees with County Executive Marc Molinaro to distribute \$4.5 million less in sales-tax revenue next year to municipalities.

"That's the major impact on the revenue side," Carey said.

Town Highways Superintendent Walt Doyle said he has agreed to a \$195,000 reduction in his paving budget next year to help control spending. This will leave him \$150,000 in state funding for paving, which, he said, will let him pave a little less than one mile of road

next year.

"With the current economic condition, I can kind of understand," Doyle said. "This is all part of that 2 percent tax cap."

Rohr proposes spending \$100,000 of the town's estimated \$770,000 fund balance to offset the tax-levy increase.

Nov. 20 is the state deadline for the Town Board to adopt the 2013 budget.

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