

July 2009

Dear West Windsor Taxpayer:

Enclosed please find your 2009 property tax bill and an insert that provides a more detailed breakdown of how your tax dollars are allocated among the various levels of government. The 2009 operating budget for the Township General Fund calls for \$36,514,000 in expenditures. Revenue includes \$8,729,081 in miscellaneous revenue, \$2,813,474 in state aid, \$189,989 in direct state grants and \$20,581,456 as the amount to be raised by taxation. The Township plans to utilize \$4.2 million from surplus to support the 2009 Budget, leaving approximately \$3.4 million in surplus reserve to help stabilize taxes in 2010 and 2011. The municipal tax rate is therefore 33.1 cents in 2009 which reflects an increase of 1.7 cents over 2008.

The Municipal Budget represents approximately 15% of the total tax bill and is the only portion of the tax bill that the Mayor and Township Council can directly control. This 15% covers all the municipal services provided to residents including public safety (police and emergency services), public works (refuse, recycling, parks maintenance and yard waste collection), and human services (health, recreation, senior and social services). The remaining 85% is used to pay for regional schools, county and library taxes and open space acquisition and preservation.

West Windsor Township is one of only nine municipalities out of 566 in the State of New Jersey to receive a Triple A bond rating from Standard & Poor's Rating Service. This rating reflects the Township's rapidly expanding local economy, its consistently solid financial performance, and overall favorable debt position. To date, this prestigious rating will save the Township a total of approximately \$802,000 in interest on general improvement and refunding bonds.

As we move forward in 2009 and beyond, the Township will continue to work on a number of important capital projects including completion of the addition to the Senior Center, renovations to the former Princeton Junction Firehouse, reconstruction of Meadow Road and implementation of bike and pedestrian-friendly roadway design. We will continue to focus on improving our roads and infrastructure, maintaining and upgrading our recreational facilities and parks, and reducing our energy costs while protecting our environment.

In addition to grants that fund the 2009 operating budget, the Township has received \$545,000 in grant funds to support capital projects to include \$175,000 in New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Local Aid Grant for Penn Lyle Road Phase II improvements, \$125,000 for the NJDOT Bike Way/Bike Lane Extension Program, \$150,000 for Wallace Road Reconstruction fully funded by the State of NJ Transportation Trust Fund and \$95,000 for Dutch Neck Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements, also fully funded by the State of NJ Transportation Trust Fund.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers who serve on the numerous boards and committees for their generous time, ideas, and participation in making this Township a truly great place to live. Together with Township Council and our dedicated Township staff, I look forward to another positive and productive year.

Sincerely,

Shing-Fu Hsueh, Mayor