



# Township of Egg Harbor

3515 BARGAINTOWN ROAD, EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, NJ 08234-8321

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP ADOPTS 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

On April 3, 2019, Township Committee adopted their 2019 municipal budget of \$42.6 million. This year's budget is \$1.6 million greater than the 2018 budget.

\$1.2 million of the increase in spending is a result of two (2) grants received:

Local Freight Impact Fund	\$675,000
Centerline Rumble Strips	\$618,195

Without these two (2) grants in the 2019 budget the increase from 2018 would one be \$357,733, an increase of less than one percent (1%).

This budget increases the local purpose tax levy by one and a half cents (0.015). The impact on the average homeowner (\$207,205 assessed value) is \$7.75 per tax quarter.

The Township Committee only controls 18% of the total tax bill. An average homeowner pays to Township \$1,188 a year in taxes. All other taxes go to the county and school district. For \$1,188 a year or \$23 per week, residents receive all of the basic services such as: trash collection, police and fire protection, recreational opportunities, road maintenance and all other administrative functions which are necessary to operate a \$42 million business.

Mayor Hodson compared Egg Harbor Township local purpose tax rate of \$0.58 to our neighboring municipalities. He said, "Hamilton Township and Galloway Township are the two municipalities comparable to EHT in area and size; and Hamilton Township's 2019 tax rate is \$0.88 (thirty cents higher). Galloway Township's 2019 tax rate is \$0.62 (four cents higher)" However, in Galloway garbage collection is not included in their tax rate and homeowners must contract individually for this service, which is usually \$350 per year for a typical family.

Mayor Hodson pointed out that Atlantic County has twenty-three municipalities, "only one full service municipality has a lower local purpose rate than Egg Harbor Township and that community is a seasonal shore community".

A comparison of neighboring towns' tax rates shows how much lower Egg Harbor Township's rates are:

Absecon	\$0.99 (2019 rate);
Brigantine	\$0.64 (2019 rate);
Linwood	\$0.91 (2018 rate);
Margate	\$0.62 (2018 rate); and
Somers Point	\$0.99 (2019 rate).

Township Administrator Miller pointed out "that there are two CAPS in New Jersey which have to be met when preparing a municipal budget. The first is the spending CAP and this budget is \$3 million BELOW the CAP. The second is the tax levy CAP and the Township is \$391,000 BELOW that CAP".

The three largest areas of expenditures in the 2019 budget are as follows:

Public Safety	33%
Insurance/Social Security/Pensions	24%
Public Works	16%
Total	73%

The number of full time employees remains at the same 2018. Due to attrition (retirements and resignations), the actual overall increase in salary and wages in the 2019 budget is less than two percent (2%).

The Township has collective bargaining agreements in place with three unions. The PBA & GWU contracts are through 2020, and the CWA contract is through 2021. The annual cost per union contract is two percent (2%) annually.

Egg Harbor Township receives Energy Receipts Taxes for utilities located within the Township. In 2001, the Township received \$6,781,644 in Energy Receipts Taxes. Since 2011, the Township has only received \$6,013,285 annually. Based upon state law, the Township should receive close to \$15 million in 2019. This is a loss of \$8.9 million. Mayor Hodson stated, "If the Township received the funds which they are rightly and legally entitled to, our tax rate would be 22 cents lower or \$375 a year less to the average home owner".

Township Administrator Miller stated, "Every year our department heads look for more efficient ways to provide municipal services and to control cost. This budget reflects their ongoing efforts to do just that".

The Township entered into a shared services agreement with the County of Atlantic three (3) years ago to have a traffic signal installed at the intersection of Ocean Heights Avenue and Blackman Road. That project is scheduled to go to construction this summer. This will resolve the long delay residents experience trying to make a left hand turn at this intersection.

Township Committee Member Joe Cafero stated, "This budget is fiscally responsible to our residents both in the short term and long term".