



**CITY OF PORT JERVIS**  
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# Newsletter

City of Port Jervis

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## **New City Council**

Port Jervis will Welcome a New Council in 2016

Voters made their choice in Port Jervis on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> by electing the following people to the council. The Mayor Kelly Decker and Councilman-At-Large David Bavoso will continue in their capacity for the next 2 years. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward the residents will see a complete change with the addition of Sarah Hendry and Regis Foster. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward will remain unchanged with

George Belcher and Bob Ritchie. There was one clear winner in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and that is newcomer Kristin Trovei with Gina Fitzpatrick currently ahead with a slight lead over Nikki Jones and Bill Harris. Absentee ballots will need to be counted to decide who will ultimately take that position. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Stan Siegel and Frank Bell continue their representation.

## **2016 Budget Proposal**

Mayor Decker submits

It is impossible to create a 2016 budget for the City of Port Jervis that maintains services while staying within the 2% tax cap (which in Port Jervis equates to .75%). Getting the 2016 budget to that level would require substantial cuts to our Dept. of Public Works, Police and Fire Depts. as well as Recreation. Rising costs of salt for the roads, health and

retirement benefits for our employees and a depleted fund balance are part of this increase. Port Jervis is a small community; we receive funds from a small pool of taxpayer's. Other municipalities have the luxury of pulling from a larger tax base and they still charge more. In addition they add ala carte **NEXT PAGE**

## **Mayor's Corner**

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Many of you may be mystified by how I could propose a 14.4% tax increase for the 2016 city budget. I surely didn't want to do it and I certainly can't tell you that it won't happen again. A city in its identification alone offers services. Services cost money and without a proper stream of alternative revenue, taxes will rise. This budget is balanced for the services that we provide.

8 years of 0% tax increases over 25 years coupled with using fund balance and having very small increases (e.g. ½ percent in 2015) put us here.

We need to create an atmosphere in this city that is conducive to tourism that creates alternative revenue. Future bond projects need to go towards building those activities that create revenue for the city, rather than rely on taxes alone.

items for their services. People complain about Port Jervis and the taxes that they pay but after a careful analysis (see chart below) you will see that the city

audit showed a negative net change of \$641,069.00 in anticipated revenues which equates to a 14.17% increase, which was mostly due to the

as additions and return of services. All departments were examined for excess. West End Beach was brought back to include a swim instructor with details to follow later. Every weekend at the dump was also brought back with changes to how much can be disposed. New to the budget are funds for a contract of services with the Port Jervis Ambulance Corp. The Mayor's proposed balanced budget for 2016 is 14.4% for CITY TAXES ONLY. There is NO change in sewer or water rates. The tax increase for most would be between \$12.00 and \$20.00 per month.

Now the budget belongs to the City Council to make changes before passing same.

*"We receive from a small pool of taxpayer's where other municipalities have the luxury of pulling from a larger tax base and still charge more...Many times people leave but come back..." Mayor Kelly B. Decker*

taxes alone which provide for all of your residential services are substantially lower than comparison communities. Many times people leave Port Jervis but come back when they realize the services they received here, for their tax dollar, were much cheaper than where they moved. Why such a large increase now? The 2014

inflated sales tax revenue predicted that year. This budget, coupled with the 2014 deficit started out at 24.6%. Additional loss of future county sales tax and state aid this year, along with the debt payment of two buildings downtown made this a very difficult budget to balance. Some cuts were made, as well

*Below is a comparison chart of taxes in Port Jervis and other communities*

<u>Port Jervis</u>	<u>Middletown</u>	<u>Newburgh</u>	<u>Deerpark</u>	<u>Otisville</u>	<u>Walden</u>
50' x 120'	50' x 155'	75' x 150'	67' x 108'	53' x 187'	50' x 100'
1776 sq ft	1812 sq ft	1664 sq ft	1488 sq ft	1952 sq ft	1225 sq ft
County-\$459.83	County-\$545.51	County-\$678.15	County-\$502.11	County-\$516.65	County-\$559.22
City-\$1,503.63	City-\$2,024.42	City-\$3,345.46	Village-	Village-\$1,016.39	Village-\$1,565.36
Town-	Town-	Town-	Town-\$422.06	Town- \$500.28	Town- \$148.89
Sanitation-	Sanitation-	Sanitation- \$420.54	Sanitation -Priv \$360	Sanitation- Priv \$360	Sanitation- \$303.00
Highway-	Highway-	Highway-	Highway- \$278.06	Highway-	Highway-
Fire Dist-	Fire Dist-	Fire Dist-	Fire Dist- \$251.63	Fire Dist-	Fire Dist-
School-\$4,367.13	School-\$3,656.71	School-\$4,844.84	School-\$3,751.56	School-\$3,070.80	School-\$3,581.82
Library-\$156.89	Library-\$112.23	Library-\$210.36	Library-\$134.78	Library-	Library-\$122.14
Water-\$480.00	Water and Sewer based on 30,000 average per year	Water and Sewer based on 30,000 average per year	No Municipal Water or Sewer, homeowner pays for well and septic	Water based on 30,000 average per year \$240.00	Water and Sewer based on 30,000 average per year \$1,648.00
Sewer-\$72.00					
	\$1,857.60	\$1,457.92			
Local Tx & fee =	Local Tx & fees =	Local Tx & fees =	Local Tx & fees =	Local Tx & fees =	Local Tx & fees =
<b>\$2,055.63</b>	<b>\$3,882.02</b>	<b>\$5,223.92</b>	<b>\$1,311.75</b>	<b>\$2,116.67</b>	<b>3,665.25</b>
			+well/septic/ Minimal services	+ septic	