

Village of Head of the Harbor

MICHAEL D. UTEVSKY
Mayor

TRUSTEES

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Deputy Mayor

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Village Administrator/Clerk

PATRICIA A. MULDERIG
Village Treasurer

CHARLES M. LOHMANN
Police Chief

February, 2026

DEAR FRIENDS,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am happy to report that the Village Board of Trustees has approved a new budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2026.

Due to increased expenses, we had to increase the Village tax rate by 7.99%, from \$24.03 per \$100 of assessed value to \$25.95. That's in line with increases in many other Villages and Towns in the County—for example, Smithtown taxes were increased by more than 10% for the new tax year—and it represents an average Village tax increase of about \$230 per home. The increases include increased State pension costs, personnel salary increases to keep pace with the cost of living, plus a small additional differential for our police officers to keep us competitive with other Villages for 24/7 staffing.

We spent our entire budgeted amounts this past year for storm response and snow removal. The results were well worth the cost. Our three-man highway crew worked non-stop throughout every recent snowstorm, and all Village roads remained open.

In a recent Congressional Budget Bill, Congressman Nick LaLota has obtained funding for two new police cars for the Village. We expect to obtain approximately \$140,000 from this grant, and we can keep our fleet of four police cars up to date.

We are still awaiting reimbursement from FEMA and NYS for emergency repair expenses of about \$350,000 resulting from the storm of August 19, 2024. The reimbursement process has been slowed by new FEMA filing procedures, but we hope to receive funds within our new fiscal year.

Harbor Road remains a work in progress and my highest priority. After extensive efforts on the part of our Village and its residents to elicit progress, the Ward Melville Heritage Organization recently shared some preliminary plans with us and the Town of Brookhaven, and we expect that future collaborative efforts will move this long-delayed project ahead soon. It seems unlikely that FEMA funds will be available for the work, due to the need to rebuild the dam and Mill Pond together with Harbor Road, a project that is not recognized under FEMA rules. Although the collapse occurred outside our Village boundary line, the work may include rebuilding a portion of our Village road that is intact, and our Village will be expected to pay its fair share of the rebuilding costs. Dollar amounts have not yet been determined, but your Trustees and

I am committed to making every effort to have our share reflect our Village's relative size and budget, compared with the Town of Brookhaven and Ward Melville Heritage Organization. We are also working to locate new funding sources.

Village elections will be held on Wednesday, March 18, for Mayor and two Trustee positions. Voting will be at Village Hall, from 12:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Please vote, either in person on Election Day, by absentee ballot, or by early ballot.

The following is a brief summary of the new budget against last year's budget. A more detailed budget is available on the Village website, with a link on the Treasurer's page.

With best wishes,

MICHAEL UTEVSKY, MAYOR

Budget

Year Ended February 28, 2026

Year Ended February 28, 2027

REVENUES

REAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$1,400,683.78	\$1,515,371.96
DONATIONS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
OTHER REVENUES	733,551.00	763,071.00
APPROPRIATED SURPLUS	150,000.00	150,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,314,234.78	\$2,458,442.96

EXPENSES

GENERAL	\$660,193.64	\$715,618.01
POLICE	777,446.04	870,413.76
FIRE	0.00	0.00
SAFETY	69,248.58	56,403.08
SUBTOTAL	846,694.62	926,816.84
HIGHWAY	575,461.71	572,541.29
COMMUNITY SERVICE	42,208.83	46,031.33
DEBT SERVICE	82,975.00	80,635.50
RETIREMENT	106,700.00	116,800.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,314,233.80	2,458,442.97

NET REVENUE/EXPENSES	\$0.98	(\$0.01)
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TAX RATE	\$24.03	\$25.95
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