

2027 Tentative Budget

Under the Tax Cap

Tax Rate stays the same

The 2027 Tentative Budget has been filed with the Town Clerk and will be reviewed by the Town Board before final approval and adoption at the Wednesday, November 4 Town Board meeting.

As Town Supervisor, my goal has remained the same: maintain the services residents depend on while keeping taxes low and spending responsible. The 2027 budget continues important investments in public safety, infrastructure, recreation, and the services that make Clarence a great place to live

During my tenure as Town Supervisor I have not gone over the State mandated Tax Cap. Once again, the budget remains below New York State's property tax cap, with no increase to the General Fund tax rate. While tax rates in many communities are measured in dollars, Clarence's General Fund rate remains just 57 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The average homeowner will pay approximately \$600 in total Town taxes.

The Highway Fund rate will increase to \$0.85 per \$1,000, due in part to higher fuel and road salt costs. Following New York State requirements that road salt be purchased from New York mines, the cost per ton increased significantly. Today, the Town pays more for road salt than for blacktop used to repave our roads.

Balancing Rising Costs

Like families across Clarence, the Town continues to face rising costs, particularly for utilities, fuel, and other essential expenses.

Our department heads work hard to manage taxpayer dollars responsibly. Careful planning and smart investments allow us to absorb many of these increases while maintaining strong services and avoiding large tax increases.

Supporting Our Employees and First Responders

Our volunteer fire companies continue to see growing responsibilities and call volumes. The 2027 budget provides a 3 percent increase in their contracts while keeping the overall budget below the tax cap. It also continues cancer insurance coverage and support for the Length of Service Award Program for our volunteer firefighters.

Town union and nonunion employees will receive raises, and the Senior Center will receive a significant funding increase to support programs and services for Clarence seniors.

As in previous years, there will be no pay increase for the Town Supervisor or Town Board.

Investing in Clarence

The Highway Department will continue roadwork, drainage, snow removal, seasonal maintenance, and additional road repaving projects.

The General Fund continues to support parks and recreation, youth and senior programs, planning, code enforcement, and public works.

Highlights of the 2027 budget include:

- Continued funding for four School Resource Officers
- Renovation of an existing Highway Department garage into the Town's first 40,000 square foot Recreation Center
- A redevelopment of the Clarence Hollow Farmers Market area. With the purchase of two additional adjoining properties a new pavilion, bathrooms, and display area for the Farmers Market are planned transforming almost 3 acres of property into a Pocket Park.
- 5 miles of sidewalk expansion along both sides of Sheridan Drive
- Design work for new sidewalks in Clarence Center
- Delaware Road safety improvements
- Resurfacing of the Town View pickleball courts
- Repairs and resurfacing along sections of the Peanut Line bike path

Looking Ahead

Clarence remains a great place to live, raise a family, and do business because of our excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, recreational opportunities, strong services, and low tax rates.

The 2027 Tentative Budget continues our commitment to investing in the community while remaining responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Thank you to our elected officials, Town employees, department heads, and volunteer fire companies for their continued dedication to Clarence. Together, we will continue working to keep our community safe, strong, and fiscally sound for generations to come.