

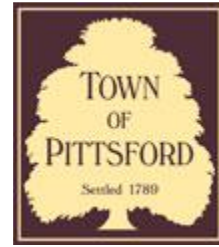
MEMORANDUM

From: William A. Smith, Jr.

To: Town Board

Date: October 20, 2025

Re: Proposed Budget for 2026



Submitted herewith is my proposed Town Budget for 2026.

The proposed budget holds the town tax rate flat, with no increase. The rate therefore will remain, for the fifth consecutive year, since my tax cut for 2022, at \$3.13 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

Since 2018 the budgets I have presented to the Town Board for approval, all of which the Board has approved without amendment as to tax rate or tax levy, have cut the Town tax rate by more than 9%, taking the rate from \$3.44 per thousand dollars of assessed value to \$3.13.

Town tax remains proportionally low. Under this budget proposed for 2026, for every dollar each taxpayer pays in property tax, just eight cents (\$0.08) represents Town of Pittsford tax.

Therefore, the owner of a home of the average value in Pittsford, which is \$305,000, will pay \$955 in town tax in 2026. Again, less than a thousand dollars for the year.

This budget proposal for 2026 maintains all municipal services without cuts.

Inflation remains a challenge. For 2026 the cost of medical coverage for retirees will increase by 9%. The cost of medical care for current employees will increase by 13.9%; in each case less than last year, yet an increase nonetheless. Without the benefit conferred by the Town's membership in the Finger-Lakes Municipal Healthcare Trust – a statewide model for shared services, initiated by the Town of Pittsford – these increases would have been even more extreme.

During 2025 Sales tax receipts have been robust, exceeding receipts from the year before. These funds, and Sales taxes projected for next year, have helped make it possible to cope with rising costs without any increase in the Town tax rate.

This budget provides full support for our Pittsford Community Library as well as for residential road repaving on the accelerated program the Department of Public Works adopted several years ago. It increases the Town's funding for Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance by 2%

over last year, following a cumulative increase for PVA of 114% from 2018 through 2022. It increases funding for Pittsford Youth Services by 2%. Cumulatively, the Town has increased its funding of Pittsford Youth Services by 90% since 2017. That is over and above the extra \$39,400 in ARPA funds the Town provided to PYS in 2022.

The proposed budget provides all non-elected employees with an increase of 2.9% as a cost-of-living adjustment, tracking the CPI. Elected officials receive no increase.

The proposed budget maintains full funding for senior citizens' programs and services, including lunch and nutrition programs. It funds our full schedule of recreation programs, including youth programs; it includes as well our full schedule of Town events.

Taxpayers continue to save money because the Town maintains its credit rating. The Town of Pittsford continues to hold the highest credit rating possible – Triple-A. Pittsford has a higher credit rating than both New York State and the United States government. This protects taxpayers by keeping down the rate of interest we pay on Town bonds, for such things as the Greenprint, the renovations to our Spiegel Community Center, the Library and our improvements to Athletic Fields, parks and any future capital projects. Pittsford remains the only Town of its size in the United States to hold this perfect credit rating.

Despite maintaining a tax rate significantly lower than neighboring communities, Pittsford will continue to provide its full range of municipal services that other towns do not offer regardless of their tax rate. These include weekly leaf pick up, regular yard debris collection, extensive recreation programming and a Town-financed library.

This budget supports my Town administration's commitment to responsiveness to residents. This is due to an administrative organizational structure built on the principle of responsiveness and, though our staffing is lean, it is comprised of senior staff, and supporting staff, who have the ability, talent and deep experience to perform effectively for residents. Our departmental and multi-departmental leaders have proven truly outstanding in this regard.

Being able to meet residents' expectations in this way is how our Town government builds stronger neighborhoods, accomplishes continual improvement, and provides to youth, to seniors and to all residents the services and support they expect.

We continue to build on Pittsford's decades-long and solid legacy of enlightened and responsible budgetary practices that protect taxpayers. These practices and policies have created a fiscal vitality that has resulted, yet again, in the State Comptroller evaluating Pittsford's fiscal stress as Zero for another consecutive year – a Town government with no fiscal stress whatsoever.

Thanks to Finance Director Brian Luke and our senior staff members for their work and recommendations in preparing this budget. Our methodology remains straightforward:

- What have residents suggested throughout the year? Which suggestions are cost-effective and have broad public support?

- What will it cost to maintain Town services for our residents in the year ahead?
- What will it cost to make the improvements we seek?
- On the most realistic view and on a principled basis for analysis, what are our projections for Town revenues for the year?
- How do we reconcile this data to maintain and improve services and amenities while best protecting taxpayers?

This is how we continue Pittsford's long tradition of improving services, amenities, infrastructure and protecting taxpayers.

The result is the budget for 2026 I now propose.