



## Town of Clifton Park

One Town Hall Plaza • Clifton Park, New York 12065 • (518) 371-6651 • FAX: (518) 371-1136

---

# Clifton Park Town Board – 2012 Budget Message

Town Supervisor Phil Barrett has presented the 2012 preliminary budget, on behalf of the Town Board, that totals \$15,219,551, which is approximately \$33,000 lower than the \$15,241,491 budget adopted for 2011. The town will remain without a town property tax once again in 2012. The highway department budget totals \$4,805,814. Barrett and the Town Board were able to keep costs down in the 2012 budget despite the continued sluggish economy and declining sales tax revenue. Clifton Park's town government remains debt free.

The Town Board encourages input from residents on the 2012 budget at a public hearing set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10 at Town Hall. The Town Board is expected to adopt the 2012 budget on Monday, Nov. 21 as the lengthy process is completed.

The town recently renegotiated its health care plans with the two CSEA bargaining units that represent town employees. The union members ratified the proposal in July and the changes became effective on September 1, 2011. The Town Board applauded the CSEA leadership and team members at Town Hall for working together to make sensible adjustments to the budget while saving taxpayers a significant amount of money.

The 2011 budget included \$1,575,000 for employee medical and dental insurance costs and a total employee benefits line of \$2,535,285. For 2012 the medical and dental insurance costs will total \$1,162,600 and the total employee benefits line will be \$2,258,367, representing a 12 percent decrease in 2012 thanks to the renegotiated health insurance plan.

Included in the Employee Benefits Line is Clifton Park's required annual payment to New York State for the town's share of the state retirement system cost. This number has jumped 117 percent since 2010 and continues to pressure the budget.

The 2012 budget does not include any cuts to programs or services to Clifton Park's 37,000 residents. However, one position that is currently filled in the Planning Department has been eliminated. The Town has reduced its workforce over the last few years through attrition and streamlining of management positions. However, the realities of today's fiscal environment dictated this move.

In evaluating the overall economic climate of Clifton Park, Supervisor Barrett cited the millions of dollars in private sector investment happening right now in Clifton Park. The retail redevelopment of the Clifton Park Center mall, a cause first championed by the Town Board back in 2000, has culminated this year with the new Regal Cinemas, Hilton Garden Inn and Olive Garden opening at the mall. The town is now also home to businesses that are suppliers to the GLOBALFOUNDRIES plant in Malta. Another redevelopment project is the new Ellis Medicine building currently being constructed in the Exit 9 area.

---

**PHILIP C. BARRETT**  
Supervisor

**LYNDA M. WALOWIT**  
Councilwoman

**THOMAS E. PAOLUCCI**  
Councilman

**SCOTT HUGHES**  
Councilman

**JAMES J. ROMANO**  
Councilman



# Town of Clifton Park

One Town Hall Plaza • Clifton Park, New York 12065 • (518) 371-6651 • FAX: (518) 371-1136

---

A primary topic of discussion among Town Board members has been the long-term management structure of Town Hall. For 2011, the salary is \$103,000 for a full-time Town Administrator and \$21,076 for the Town Supervisor. The Town Administrator position became vacant in March of this year. At that time, the Town Board decided to leave the position vacant for the time being and discuss the long-term management structure of the town during the 2012 budget process.

The Town Board has decided that the town should have a full-time position at Town Hall to oversee day-to-day operations. Currently, there are two options the Town Board is considering. The first is to fill the vacant Town Administrator position. The second would involve combining the Town Administrator and Town Supervisor positions, which would save the town \$34,000 in the 2012 budget compared to 2011. Either option would carry a \$90,000 salary. If the board were to combine the positions, the current part-time salary of the Town Supervisor would be eliminated.

The 2012 budget includes funds for vehicle purchases, capital investments in recreational venues, the continuation of the bulk waste pick up service and continuing support for the Senior Center, CAPTAIN and Care Links. The Town Board has presented a realistic budget that reflects the current difficult financial times. Supervisor Barrett and the Town Board remain committed to ensuring that the town continues to invest in Clifton Park's residents, community and infrastructure.

The Town's Highway Tax will increase two percent from \$0.1855 per thousand dollars of assessed value to \$0.1890 per thousand of assessed value. This will represent an increase of less than one dollar per year for Clifton Park's average home. The total annual highway tax is \$30 per year for the average Clifton Park home.

The town remains debt free with more than \$8 million in reserves. Moody's also reaffirmed Clifton Park's Bond Rating in 2011. Over the years, the Town Board has focused on the eradication of town debt, saving for a rainy day, and reducing the cost of government operations. Executing these initiatives has created an enviable position for Clifton Park. We can continue to invest in the infrastructure of our community and vital community services despite difficult economic conditions.

Residents who wish to speak regarding the 2012 budget are encouraged to attend the Nov. 10 public hearing or contact the Supervisor's Office at 371-6651. Residents can e-mail Supervisor Barrett directly at [pbarrett@cliftonpark.org](mailto:pbarrett@cliftonpark.org).

---

**PHILIP C. BARRETT**  
Supervisor

**LYNDA M. WALOWIT**  
Councilwoman

**THOMAS E. PAOLUCCI**  
Councilman

**SCOTT HUGHES**  
Councilman

**JAMES J. ROMANO**  
Councilman