

## MAYOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

APRIL 10, 2017

It is a privilege to present my second annual budget (proposed) to the City of Amsterdam Common Council and citizens.

In order to limit the increase in taxes and user fees some difficult decisions had to be made.

As many of you are aware we are making tremendous progress within the Controller's Office as our outside accounting firm has been closely working with the Controller and his staff.

This budget maintains the quality of services our community needs and has come to expect. Everything from public safety to infrastructure to blight, we have tried to address all areas. I believe this budget is crafted to be fair while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

The property tax levy is under the state mandated cap coming in at just over 1% or .45 cents per 1000 assessed. Example, on a \$50,000.00 assessed value home equates to \$22.50 increase for the year which quarterly translates to \$5.63. User fees will increase \$35.75.

The total increase for the year is \$58.25 or \$14.56 per quarter.

### Areas of Concern

Projected total salaries increased by \$207,000 from the 2016/2017 due to ongoing contract negotiations.

Health Insurance costs are expected to increase dramatically for the year 2017/2018, an increase of 600,000 to this line item may still fall short of expected costs.

Loss of revenue from for the sale of timber at the watershed (\$80,000)

Estimated \$200,000 increase in Retirement Expenses, \$140,000 of which is Police/Fire

### Solutions

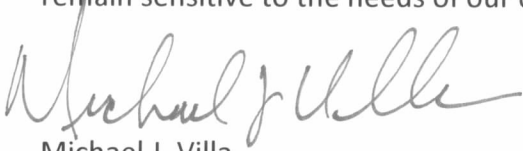
We continue to move forward with the solar energy projects. These projects are projected to save an additional \$140,000 in General Fund Electricity Expense.

Sale of Chalmer's site \$300,000

Deriving revenue from Ambulance operation

This administration will continue to look for areas of consolidation and savings. I believe we have put together a budget that provides all the essential services to our residents. I would like to personally thank our controller for all his help in preparing this budget.

I submit this 2017/2018 proposed budget to the Common Council with the hope that they remain sensitive to the needs of our city.



Michael J. Villa