

# Town of Bethlehem

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Proposed 2009 Budget

John H. Cunningham

September 24, 2008

# Overview of 2009 Budget Considerations

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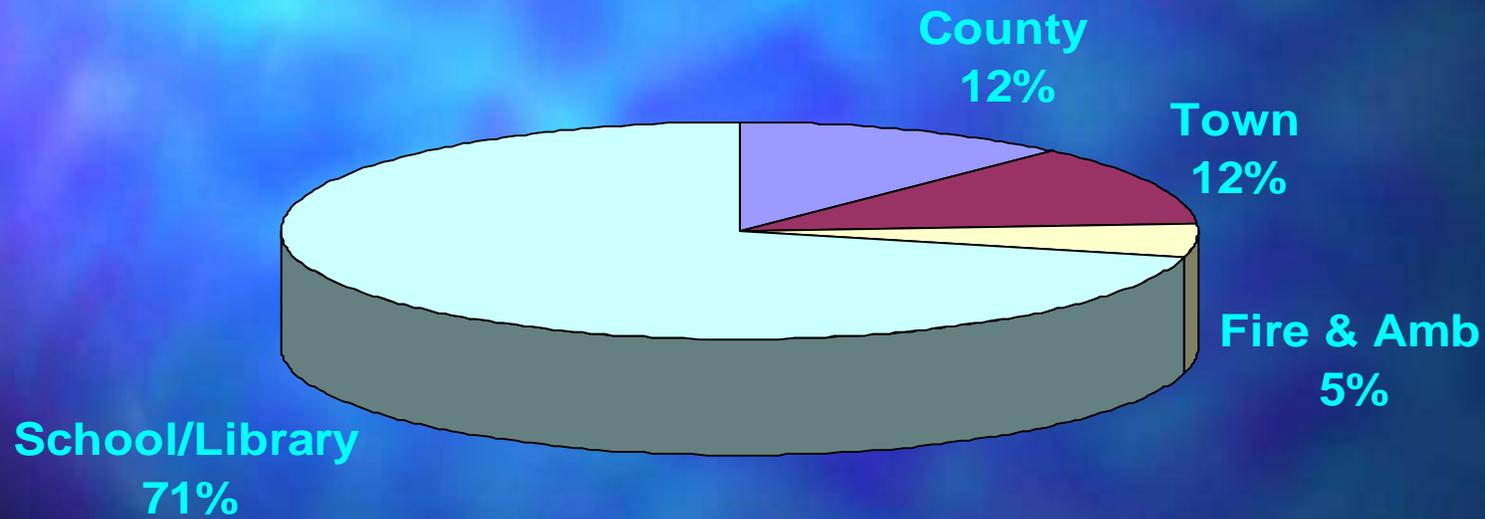
- Started budget reviews in August
- Manage competing priorities
- Budgetary Goals:
  - Fiscally responsible
  - Fair to taxpayers
  - Fair to employees

# Bethlehem 20/20

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- Seeking non-partisan approach to understanding Town operations
  - Cultivate Leadership
  - Identify issues and opportunities
  - Focus efforts
  - Build consensus
  - Guide decision making
- Focus on long term strategic planning recommendations for town services
- Create vision, guiding principals for the town government to achieve the vision for 20/20

# Tax Bill Composition



# All Percentages are not the Same

If \$300,000 AV	Fall 08/Jan. 09	1% Increase is
Town tax	\$ 132	\$ 1.32
Highway tax	\$ 395	\$ 3.95
Water tax	\$ 189	\$ 1.89
Sewer tax	\$ 96	\$ 0.96
BCSD	\$4,954	\$49.54
Library	\$ 368	\$3.68

# Look at your Fall 2008 and Est. January 2009 tax bills ...

AV	Town	Highway	School	Library
\$200k	\$88	\$263	\$3,076	\$ 245
\$300k	\$132	\$395	\$5,293	\$368
\$600k	\$264	\$790	\$10,586	\$736

# Highlights of 2008 Activity

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- Construction completed Rt.85 bypass
- Colonial Acres Golf Course – First full year of operations
- New parks' operating system
- Vista Tech Campus Ground Breaking Scheduled
- 20/20 Strategic Planning Effort
- Sidewalk Initiative
- Open Space Protection Planning
- Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning
- Delaware Avenue Study
- Route 9W Study
- LWRP

# Service Initiatives for 2009

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- Continued growth of GIS mapping
- New DPW service garage
- DPW Asset Management program
- Working with ambulance providers on insurance billings

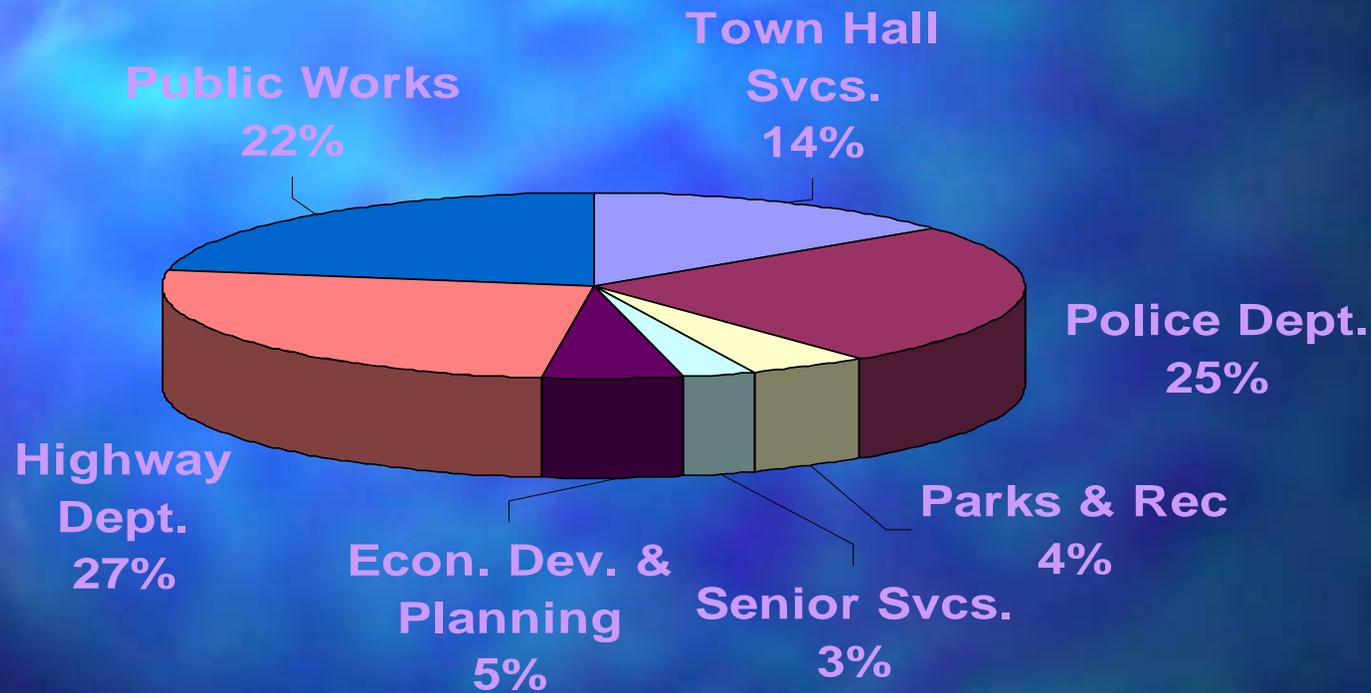
# Summary of Expenditures – All Funds (in thousands)

	2008	2009	Change
Salary & Fringes	20,459	21,350	891
Equipment	2,399	2,364	( 35)
Operating	13,110	13,000	( 110)
Debt Service	1,657	1,953	296
Total	37,625	38,667	1,042

Overall increase in expenditures

**2.8%**

# Summary of Personnel

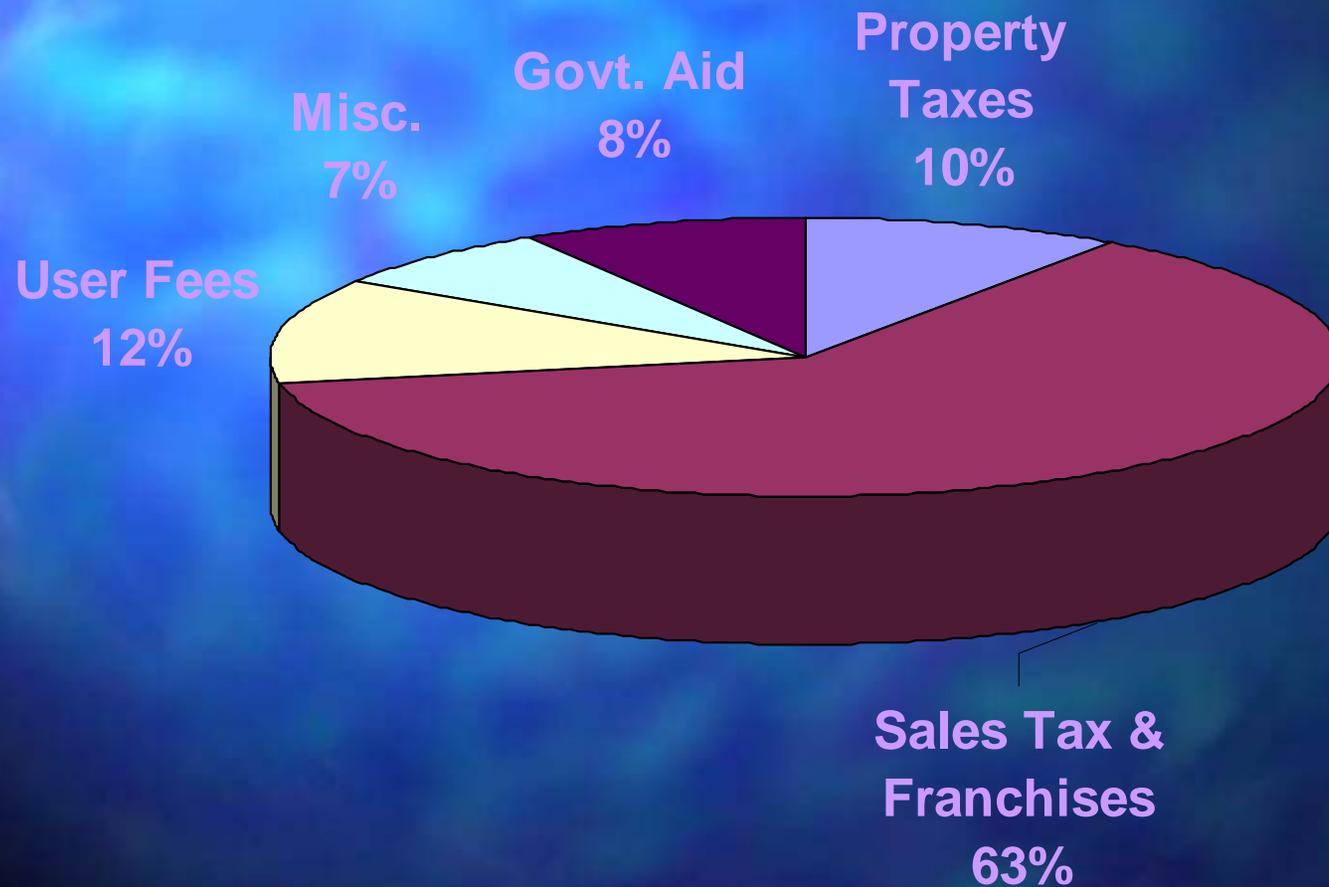


# General Fund Revenues

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- Watching economic news closely
  - Mortgage tax and sales tax = 67% of general fund revenues
- Overall revenue growth about 5%
- Use of prior surpluses = \$742,000
- Tax Rate Increase of 4% = \$1.69/\$100k AV

# General Fund Revenues



# General Fund Expenditures

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- Budget provides for one additional police officer (mid-year hire)
  - Brings number of officers to 44
- Health insurance up 14%
  - Up \$156,000 overall, to \$2,062,000
- Retirement system costs stable
- Overall 4.7% increase in expenditures, to \$18,192,000

# Highway Fund

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- Expenditures up 4.7%
- Costs for paving materials and fuel continue to rise dramatically
- Staff levels kept at 56, despite increased service demands
- Proposed 6% tax rate increase
  - Equals \$7.45 per \$100k of AV

# Water & Sewer Funds

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- Need to better fund long-term infrastructure maintenance
- Cost of chemicals used in treatment have risen significantly
- Sewer Tax rates up 4.0% (\$1.18/\$100k AV)
- Water Tax rates up 6.9% (\$7.13/\$100k AV)
- User charges will increase modestly

# Water/Sewer Billing Change

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- Utilities typically charge a flat admin fee each billing cycle
- Designed to cover processing costs
- Proposed addition to 2009 bills:
  - \$4.50 charge per quarterly water/sewer bill
  - Yields \$100,000 in revenue for each fund
- Tentative rate increase: 3%

# Taxes per \$100,000 of A.V.

	2008	Est. 2009	Change
General Fund	42.31	44.00	1.69
Highway Fund	124.29	131.74	7.45
Water Dist #1	55.74	62.87	7.13
Sewer District	30.82	32.00	1.18
<b>Total Town Tax</b>	<b>253.16</b>	<b>270.61</b>	<b>17.45</b>

Overall increase of 6.89%

Note: excludes Albany County taxes and other special districts

# Tax Levies by Fund

2008

2009

Change

General Fund	1,324,000	1,393,000	69,000
Highway Fund	3,889,000	4,171,000	282,000
Water Dist #1	1,770,000	2,010,800	240,800
Sewer District	1,568,000	1,600,000	32,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,551,000</b>	<b>9,174,800</b>	<b>623,800</b>

+ 7.3%

**Total Appropriations:** 37,625,000 38,667,000

+ 2.8%

# To Review Budget Documents

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- [www.townofbethlehem.org](http://www.townofbethlehem.org)
- Town Clerk's Office
- Bethlehem Public Library
  - Reference desk

**Public Hearing: October 22, 2008**

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