

## **Conservative Fiscal Philosophy Pays Dividends For County Taxpayers In 2021**

When it came to county finances in 2021, the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners gave the taxpayers more of the same – a conservative fiscal philosophy that resulted in a county tax rate freeze for the third year in a row, no debt, and a clean audit for the sixth straight year.

### **Tax Freeze Again**

Board Director Susan J. Soloway stated when the budget was adopted, “The tax rate has been held steady over the course of all three budgets during my term on the Board. It is a significant accomplishment for which I thank all who have been engaged in the process. As I have stated before, putting Hunterdon County first means putting the taxpayers first.”

### **No Debt Again**

The \$92 million county budget continued to be substantially below the budget enacted fourteen years ago and continued the county’s ‘no-debt’ pay as you go capital financing program. The last county debt service payment was made in 2014.

The County’s strong financial controls also paid dividends for the taxpayers when the independent auditor determined that county finances were totally in order for the sixth year in a row.

### **Clean Audit: Six Straight Years**

Commissioner Matt Holt, liaison to the Finance Department, stated when the audit was released, “Each year when the auditing firm releases its findings on county finances, we speak about the outstanding finance and accounting controls that have been put in place. This is not rhetoric. It is fact, proven out by the audit for an incredible six straight years.

Through hard work and determination, the county has made itself a model of government finance.”

### **Dollars Are Precious, Use Them Sparingly**

Board Director Soloway said, "When I joined this Board in 2019, I said I believe tax dollars are precious, and must be used effectively, efficiently and sparingly.

The finance record and conservative philosophy of this Board, the controls that are in place, the ability to track spending, all of it, certified once again by the independent auditor, have helped the Commissioners keep that pledge to the taxpayers over the past three years."