



BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES

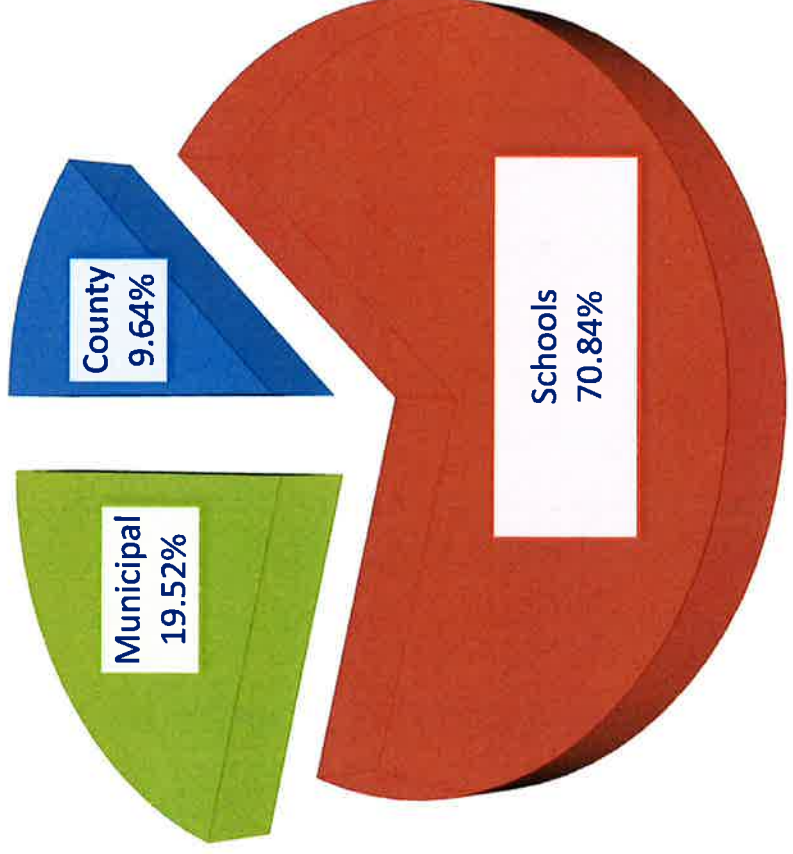
LISTED IN NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES

2022 Municipal Budget Presentation
March 14, 2022



The 2022 Municipal Budget represents approximately 19.5% of overall property taxes

PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUTION
2022 ESTIMATES





The 2022 Municipal Budget funds the operations and capital needs of the Borough

- Public Safety (Police & Fire)
- Administration (Manager, Clerk, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Financial Administration, Building Official, Planning, Zoning, Code Enforcement)
- Public Works (Roads, Sidewalks & Curbs, Garbage & Recycling, Water Infrastructure, Buildings & Grounds)
- Citizen Services (Recreation, Health, Animal Control)
- The Mountain Lakes Public Library
- Emergency and Non-Emergency Vehicles and Equipment
- Tennis Court and Fence Rehabilitation and Replacement
- Water Utility (wells, tanks, water mains, maintenance, and upgrades)
- Sewer Utility (sewer mains, maintenance, upgrades, and processing)



2022 Municipal Budget Process

- **November - December 2021:** Review of prior year's budget data and budget request submissions by department heads
- **December 2021:** Borough Manager review of departmental budget requests and discussion with department heads
- **December 2021 - February 2022:** Finance Advisory Committee meetings related to the budget
- **January 19, January 26, and February 23, 2022:** Borough Council Budget Working Sessions
- **March 14, 2022:** Budget Introduction
- **April 11, 2022 (anticipated):** Budget Adoption



The proposed 2022 Municipal Budget calls for a 6.25% tax decrease

- The 2022 Operating Budget is balanced at \$9,905,568
 - a \$71,999 (0.73%) increase over 2021
- The amount to be raised by taxation is \$6,752,339
 - a \$110,032 (-1.60%) decrease over 2021
- The tax rate is \$.56230
 - a 6.25% decrease over 2021
- The “average” \$800,000 assessed home will pay \$4,224 in taxes
 - a \$281.72/year (\$23.48/month) decrease over 2021



2022 Proposed Municipal Budget

- The proposed budget utilizes \$1,400,000 of the Surplus (Fund Balance)
- The proposed budget leaves \$2,117,176 in Fund Balance
- In comparison, the 2021 budget left \$1,082,543 in Fund Balance

➤ **A healthy Fund Balance will help ensure solid financial footing for the Borough in 2023 and beyond**



Significant Appropriations Increases in 2022

Item	\$ Increase	% Increase
PFRS (Police Pension)	\$31,913	6.38%
Board of Adjustment	\$22,400	141.24%
Engineering Services	\$13,600	38.10%
Parks & Playgrounds – Other Expenses	\$7,100	19.12%
Petroleum Expenses	\$19,000	54.29%
Bond Principal	\$155,000	22.46%
Bond Interest	\$171,294	112.06%



Significant Appropriations Decreases in 2022

Item	\$ Decrease	% Decrease
Group Insurance Plans	-\$28,875.45	-7.38%
BAN Principal	-\$225,989	-100%
Ban Interest	-\$59,499	-100%
Reserve for Tax Appeals	-\$100,000	-50%
Capital Improvement Fund	-\$331,269	-35.74%
Police Salary & Wages	-\$151,668.57	-7.75%
Police – Other Expenses	-\$17,610	-13.50%



Average Residential Municipal Taxes

2022 Annual Budget: \$9,905,586

2022 Tax Rate: \$.56230

“Average” Residential Property Value: \$800,000

Average Municipal Taxes (Annually): \$4,224

Average Municipal Taxes (Monthly): \$352



**\$352 per
month
provides:**

- Police Protection
- Fire Protection
- Emergency Medical Assistance
- Recreation Programs
- Beach Facilities
- Lakes Management
- Buildings and Grounds
- Trash and Recycling Collection
- Roads, Sidewalks, and Curbs
- Water Infrastructure
- Public Works Department
- Construction Official and Office
- Zoning and Planning
- Borough Clerk
- Borough Manager
- Finance Administration
- Health Services and Animal Control
- Code Enforcement
- Mountain Lakes Public Library



The 2022 proposed capital improvement program totals \$1,293,572

2022 Capital Budget Highlights

Public Safety: \$215,0000

✓ **Police Department**

- ✓ Police Vehicles & Retrofitting
- ✓ Mobile Video Recorders

✓ **Fire Department**

- ✓ Turnout Gear

Recreation: \$80,000

- ✓ Tennis Court Renovation and Fencing

Public Works: \$941,187

✓ Paving and Roadwork

- Paving and roadwork totals \$731,187
 - A NJ Department of Transportation grant of \$248,600 offsets a third of this spending
- ✓ Non-Emergency Vehicles
 - ✓ Water Utility Truck
 - ✓ DPW Bathroom Renovation



Sewer Utility Budget Highlights

- The Sewer Budget is balanced at \$1,011,547
- The Sewer Budget will increase by \$114,318 (12.74%) over 2021
 - This increase is primarily due to increased capital spending by Parsippany on their sewage treatment facility

Water Utility Budget Highlights



- The 2022 Water Budget is balanced at \$914,841
- The Water Budget will increase by \$20,055 (2.24%) over 2021



The 2022 Municipal Budget brings the two-year total tax decrease to 7.7%

Factors Driving Tax Decrease

- An increase in residential and commercial rates, which has expanded the property tax base
- Moving to an annual property tax reassessment program, which has reduced the risk of tax appeal settlements
- Careful planning, execution and spending of the annual and capital budgets



Thank You