

Budget Statement for 2009

Some Council members have been on a journey for 1 ½ years to find our true financial status. A journey we embarked on, as a result of the Roberts Administration admitting to under funding the budget over the years.

With the State Monitor in place, I am confident that for the first time we were presented with accurate numbers and a fully funded budget, not some imaginary numbers pulled out of the air, as not to alert anyone of the over spending. We may not like the numbers, but we have had a long and bitter fight to get accuracy, as ugly as it is. But only with the accurate figures can we now begin the process of recovery.

There were many speakers tonight mainly because of the Hugh tax increase. And rightfully so, we welcome all of your suggestions. I am so looking forward to the future Budget Committee Meeting for the 2010 Budget.

Some of you have walked thru this saga with us. Recall back in November 2007 we were given an \$ 86 million budget. The Council immediately went to work and put forth many sound duable initiatives to cut the spending, introduced and voted on a hiring, spending freeze and a list of revenue streams only to be ignored.

- 1. Pro-ration of benefits**
- 2. Parking fee for Construction Vans**
- 3. Change to the towing contract**
- 4. Create docking fees**
- 5. Create water connection fees**
- 6. Liquor License Annual fees**
- 7. Increase Cultural Affairs fees**
- 8. Phone and Bus shelter fees**
- 9. Moving Van fees**
- 10. Increase Historic Preservation Commission fees**

I had a really hard time, putting my name to this budget. I did not create these numbers; I am not responsible for these increases. I have been in minority for eight years now, arguing against the mis-management.

But was also fighting for accuracy and accountability – here it is my starting point. For those reasons I supported the passage of the 2009 budget.

I am looking forward to implementing the initiatives presented by Councilman Russo and myself. And entertain any suggestions for cuts or restricting.

Our goal is to get Hoboken finance back under control.