



Township of Branchburg

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Fellow Residents:

July 2020

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well in these most difficult and uncharted times. The Covid-19 Pandemic is influencing all our lives and businesses. The Township is doing everything we can to operate as 'normal' as possible while still preserving the public health. We encouraged and assisted our local businesses to consider outdoor dining before the Governor announced his plan to permit such activity. We have curtailed any unnecessary spending to limit or eliminate any effect the pandemic may have on our local budget. Based upon our current projections we should be able to reduce our spending for this year and have no affect on your future taxes. This is only possible due to our ongoing financial stewardship. We are also taking steps to make sure that as much government services and transactions are available online so you may "Skip the Trip" to town hall for municipal matters.

Enclosed you will find your 2020-2021 property tax bill which shows how your tax dollars are being spent. The Township has taken careful steps over the past few years to ensure that our financial "house" is in order.

While the State and other communities have experienced a decline in their tax base and a reduction in their financial ratings, over the past years Branchburg has seen an increase in local employment and an improved ratable base. We are especially proud that our bond rating remains "AAA" status. The best any town can receive. There are only 18 communities in the State of New Jersey and only 250 nationwide and who have earned this prestigious financial status. This ranking has been conferred upon us by independent bond rating firms and is a result of a solid financial plan, a healthy ratable base and sound management both fiscally and administratively. Maintaining this financial ranking will result in lower borrowing rates and therefore save countless taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, your tax dollars are helping to fund our volunteer fire and rescue squad services. These volunteer organizations are the heart of our emergency management team and are fully staffed by your friends and neighbors. Please remember to support these volunteers during their annual fundraising activities.

The members of the Township Committee, and the Township staff, recognize the trust you have placed in us to manage your local government. We have made it our daily goal to produce the most cost effective and efficient organization possible. Should you have questions on any portion of your tax bill please contact the following agencies:

- Branchburg Board of Education: Theresa Linskey, Business Administrator 908-722-3335
- Somerset County Taxes: Robert Vance, Tax Administrator 908-541-5701
- Branchburg Local Taxes: Mindy D'Amico, Tax Collector 908-526-1300 x121

My Township Committee colleagues and I stand ready to assist you in any way possible. We encourage your participation in our local government and look forward to hearing your comments. Please visit our website, www.branchburg.nj.us, for more information about the Township and the work we are doing for the community.

Sincerely,

Thomas Young, Mayor

