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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Toms River Township Adopts 2018 Municipal Budget**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Year With ZERO Cent Tax Increase**

(Toms River, NJ) Following a public hearing during today's regular meeting, the Township Council adopted the 2018 municipal budget, as presented by Mayor Kelaher last month.

The total anticipated amount to be raised by taxation is \$82,089,203, and the total anticipated general appropriations for 2018 is \$124,867,859. There is a zero-cent tax increase. The average assessed home in 2018 of \$272,380 will pay municipal property taxes in the amount of \$1,728.62.

"The budget represents a 1.2% decrease in the overall size of the budget from 2017. It is also a comfortable \$8.3 million under the appropriations cap and \$157,000 under the 2% tax levy cap," Mayor Kelaher said. "While the Township is still recovering from the loss of ratables from Superstorm Sandy, the 2018 budget provides a smart, practical and economical approach to maintaining the quality of life Toms River residents enjoy while keeping taxes as low as possible," added Mayor Kelaher.

Based on actual figures supplied by the Ocean County Board of Taxation, Toms River residents paid **19% below** the Ocean County average in municipal taxes in 2017 and, based on the numbers shown in the 2018 budget, that trend will continue beyond 2018.

**A summary of the 2018 Budget reveals the following:**

- A slight decrease in the size of the budget of 1.2% from the 2017 final budget.
- Increase in the portion of the budget for salaries/wages of **under 1%** (0.75%)
- Reduction in the "other expense" line items of (0.77%).
- **A zero-cent tax increase from the prior year.**
- Six collective bargaining agreements were settled through 2021 and the annual wage increases are at the 2% average annual level. Additionally, changes have been negotiated by the Township to reflect short and long-term savings for health insurance and benefits.

- Approximately **\$10.8 million** has been set aside pursuant to the NJ State law statutory requirement for the “Reserve for Uncollected Taxes” which represents an increase of approximately \$360,000 in this category. **This statutorily mandated expenditure represents 8.7% of the total budget.**
- The budget meets the Township’s goal of replacing sworn police officers who have retired in order to maintain the level of 160 sworn officers.
- The 2018 capital budget provides for continued improvements to Township roads, improvements to public safety communication channels, and the continued purchase of property for open space preservation.
- The 2018 budget complies with both the State-mandated levy and appropriations “Caps” as shown below:

<b>Levy Cap Analysis:</b>	
Amount to be Raised in Budget	\$ 82,089,203.09
Maximum Permitted by Levy Cap	\$ 82,246,700.45
Amount Over/(Under) Cap	\$ (157,497.36)

<b>Expenditure Cap Analysis:</b>	
Allowable Operating Appropriations Within Caps	\$100,628,748.73
CAP Utilized in 2018 Budget	\$ 92,306,347.24
Amount Over/Under Cap	\$ (8,322,401.49)

<b>2018 Budget Summary</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2018</b>
Surplus	\$ 17,000,000.00
Local Revenue	\$ 5,125,050.00
State Aid	\$ 8,492,807.00
UCC Fees	\$ 2,500,000.00
Other Misc Revenue	\$ 4,860,799.25
Delinquent Tax Revenue	\$ 4,800,000.00
Local Taxes	\$ 82,089,203.09
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 124,867,859.34</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2018</b>
General Administration/Support Serv.	\$ 6,161,237.31
Public Safety	\$ 29,566,805.20
Comm Dev/Zoning/Human Serv.	\$ 2,421,189.50
Public Works/Eng/Rec	\$ 17,488,298.05
Bldg Inspection	\$ 2,336,900.00
Utilities and Landfill	\$ 7,517,500.00
Ins. & Employee Benefits	\$ 31,750,172.24
Capital/Debt Service	\$ 14,998,788.00
Deferred Charges	\$ 1,800,000.00
Reserve for Uncoll. Taxes	\$ 10,826,969.04
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 124,867,859.34</b>

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Local Tax Rate</b>	\$0.634	\$0.634	\$0.00