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State Approves Glenville's Efficiency Plan; Certifies Savings of Nearly \$1 Million

*Ensures residents will receive tax rebate check for town staying under the cap,
certifies savings from reorganization*

Yesterday the New York State Division of Budget officially approved Glenville's Local Government Efficiency Plan. The plan, filed this past May, needed to meet a target savings of \$85,247 annually for the next three years. Supervisor Chris Koetzle certified \$309,200 in annual savings that resulted from town projects that were either an efficiency or shared service initiative. That's a savings to taxpayers of over \$927,000 by 2017; almost \$672,000 more than required by law.

Where did Glenville save the money?

The savings was achieved from a variety cost-cutting methods which include:

- Re-organization of the Tax Receiver's Office produced \$46,415 in annual savings,
- Re-organization of the Supervisor's Office, making the position full-time and streamlining the town's management structure, produced \$19,874 in annual savings,
- Re-organization of two Maintenance Helper positions produced \$37,519 in annual savings,
- Re-organization of the Dog Control Officer position produced \$55,883 in annual savings, and;
- Participating in the unified dispatch shared-services agreement with the County produced \$149,509 (according to the County's estimates.)

What does this mean for the town taxpayer?

As long as the Town remains under the tax cap for each of the next three years – and the Town has remained under the tax cap every year since it was implemented – Town residents will receive a refund equal to the Town's portion of any levy increase in each respective year. As an example, the Town's levy increase last year was 2.87% and the average resident's levy increase was \$18.00. Under this efficiency plan, the resident would receive a check for that \$18.00 from the state of New York, effectively "freezing" the levy increase for that year. Supervisor Koetzle submitted the tentative 2016 budget to the Board that calls for a .45% levy increase (below the tax cap) and will amount to a 12 cents increase in 2016 for the average home in the town.

What's next?

Residents should know that this Board remains dedicated to staying under the State's Property Tax Cap and will remain vigilant in finding new ways to save taxpayer money. Although local governments continue to face upward pressure on its cost structures – particularly in the health insurance and retirement budget lines – the Board will continue to offset those increases with new efficiency initiatives and shared services projects into the future.