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SARATOGA COUNTY RELEASES TENTATIVE 2022 BUDGET

**BUDGET PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
INFRASTRUCTURE, OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION**

Ballston Spa, NY – Saratoga County officials today released its tentative 2022 County Budget.

The tentative 2022 budget proposes significant investments in public safety, health and human services, infrastructure, open space and conservation while anticipating a property tax rate reduction for residents and staying below the property tax cap. The tentative budget also makes available \$5 million in community support grants and devotes another \$1 million to economic development and tourism for the county.

Town of Moreau Supervisor and Chair of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr. said, “This budget exemplifies how our fiscally conservative approach to governing benefits residents throughout Saratoga County. With the lowest tax rate in New York State and a strong local economy, we expect to not only reduce the property tax rate, but also make significant investments in critical areas across the county. These range from infrastructure improvements that will enhance traffic safety and improve municipal services to health and human services and public safety investments that will keep Saratoga County one of the safest and healthiest counties in the state.”

Clifton Park Supervisor and Chair of the Saratoga County Law & Finance Committee Jonathan Schopf said, “Here in Saratoga County, we held steadfast through the pandemic and have rebounded with strength and resilience. Our fiscally responsible policies have laid the foundation for strong economic consistency and our population growth helped to fuel our increased revenues that allow us to keep taxes low while making investments to maintain the quality of life we enjoy in Saratoga County.”

County Administrator Steve Bulger said, “I thank Chairman Kusnierz, Law and Finance Chair Jon Schopf and all of the Supervisors who were involved in the budget process for their time, insights, and recommendations to the Budget Liaison Committee. Together, we’ve put together a fiscally sound budget that reinforces Saratoga County as a statewide leader among all counties in many important metrics related to quality of life, fiscal responsibility, and the strong and vibrant growth of our population.”

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INVESTMENTS

Public Safety: Saratoga County enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in New York State, in part because of its ongoing support of and investment in public safety. The 2022 Tentative Saratoga County Budget allocates more than \$4 million in new investments in the Sheriff's and District Attorney's offices for body cameras, judicial discovery laws, officer training, and mandated jail programs to help ensure Saratoga County remains one of the safest places to live, work, and visit in New York State.

Health & Human Services: The County is allocating more than \$3 million to support health and human services initiatives and the county's Public Health Services department's transition to a full-service Department of Health. This public health conversion requires the addition of an environmental services unit to cover services that will no longer be provided by the New York State Department of Health. These investments will help to ensure these important services continue to be available for our residents and help to keep Saratoga County ranked as one of the healthiest counties in the state.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Long Range Capital Plan: As part of the \$26 million capital budget for 2022, the Long Range Capital Planning Committee in September authorized the option of a Capital Facilities bond to fund up to \$12 million in proposed capital investments to spread the County's costs of these long-term projects over 10 years. Projects supported include highway equipment and maintenance, bridge upgrades, and facilities improvements.

County Workforce and Facilities: The tentative budget includes allocations to invest in the tools, technology, and training that county employees require to deliver the high quality of services our citizens expect. Support for several important initiatives, including needed upgrades to our County First Responder communications network, broadband expansion, and facilities improvements are also included.

Open Space and Conservation Investments: The 2022 budget continues the County's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life for our residents through investments in open space preservation and conservation. This includes increased outlays for Open Space preservation, trail and forest land maintenance, and significant seed money for the next big extension of the Zim Smith Trail.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

The budget includes nearly \$5 million in community support grants, including a new \$2 million non-profit grant program. The non-profit grant program will help those organizations in need recover from the pandemic so they may continue their important work. To further boost Saratoga County as a worldwide tourist and industry destination, approximately \$1.1 million is appropriated for economic development and tourism next year.

TENTATIVE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- The proposed budget for 2022 is \$381 million.
- The two key metrics that have helped drive this growth will be in place again for 2022: the lowest county sales tax rate and the lowest county property tax rate out of all 62 counties in New York.
- The 2022 budget once again anticipates a slight decrease in the property tax rate without exceeding the state's property tax cap.
- Sales tax receipts is expected to be approximately \$141 million by year's end. This will be used as the baseline sales tax revenue figure for 2022.

To view the 2022 Tentative Budget and County Administrator's Budget Message visit www.saratogacountyny.gov.