Councilwoman Kepert and Councilman Panico Work in Bipartisan Manner to Hold the Line on Fees for Homeowners

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Farmingville, NY - In midst of tough financial times, Councilwoman Connie Kepert and Councilman Panico worked in a bipartisan manner to reduce the fees for 'Relief of Clearing Limits' for homeowners. The fees were determined by a sliding scale formula that was costing homeowners thousands of dollars in fees for relief of the limits. The bipartisan Kepert/Panico amendment will replace it with a fixed fee of $500.00 for those in conformance with the existing limits and $1,000 for that's not in conformance.

"The current fee structure makes it nearly financially impossible for homeowners to apply for the relief. Councilman Panico and I agreed on this issue and worked together to set affordable fees for those homeowners seeking relief in the Town of Brookhaven. When a resident makes a legitimate case to the town to have their tree clearing limits relieved it should not cost them thousands of dollars," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Councilwoman Kepert insisted that a hardship clause be included in the code amendment, whereby homeowners can request a waiver of fees after providing documentation proving the home was constructed and received a CO by the Building Department after the clearing had took place. The Councilwoman pushed for the hardship provision immediately after being approached by residents who were seeking relief of a covenant they had never been apprised of in all the years they lived in their homes until it was uncovered by a town official. "If a homeowner comes to the Town because they need permits to improve the value of their home and because they take pride in where they live, the Town should not distress them with fees related to covenants that they were never informed of when building their home. Sometimes government just needs to get out of the way and that is why I pushed for this hardship clause," concluded Connie Kepert.

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