Supervisor Lesko and Town Board to vote on Agreements to increase Landfill Revenues by a total of $4.75 million

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Farmingville, NY - On Tuesday, March 2, Supervisor Mark Lesko, along with the Brookhaven Town Board, will vote on two resolutions that will result in increased landfill revenues of $4.75 million. Increasing landfill revenues is a component of Supervisor Lesko's five point fiscal plan for 2011 to close a potential budget gap of $17- $19 million, which is needed to ensure that the town does not violate its rainy-day fund policy.

"Every day we are aggressively implementing on our five point fiscal plan," said Supervisor Lesko, "we are running the Department of Waste Management like a competitive business and will continue to seek opportunities for increased revenues so that we can close this potential budget gap in 2011".

If passed, one resolution will allow Supervisor Lesko to enter into an inter-municipal agreement (IMA) with the Town of Huntington. Under this new arrangement, the Town will front haul to Huntington non-residential waste received at its Transfer Station. On the return trip, the Town will back haul ash for disposal at the Town of Brookhaven Landfill, a task formerly performed by a private contractor. The new solid waste disposal IMA, coupled with the use of town employees to haul ash, is expected to generate a net savings of $1 million per year for the next three years.

Another resolution on the Town Board agenda is the re-working of the town's yard waste (residential brush and leaves collected at the curb) disposal contract. The initial contract with Long Island Compost was awarded by the Town Board in December 2008. This resolution extends the contract to 2014, and reduces the cost to the Town of Brookhaven by $350,000 a year for five years, saving a total of $1.75 million dollars.

"The savings that the Town will gain from the intermunicipal agreement and the contract extension for the yard waste disposal will help continue to bring much needed revenue into the town coffers to close our 2011 anticipated debt," said Councilman Tim Mazzei, Town Board Liaison to the Department of Waste Management.

Supervisor Mark Lesko announced his five point fiscal plan at the State of the Town address on January 26, 2010. The plan includes: 1) Increasing landfill revenues; 2) Working with Cablevision to restructure the Town's payment schedule; 3) Working with CSEA partners to creatively save money; 4) Re-prioritizing the capital budget and delaying unnecessary projects; and 5) Implementing Efficiency and Revenue Team projects.

In addition to the landfill projects, the Efficiency and Revenue Team is in the process of conducting a top to bottom assessment of all capital projects and will determine which projects are necessary this year and which ones can be delayed to save money (open space projects will not be delayed). In addition, the ER Team recently saved over $55,000 per year by "going green" with the Parks guide, which will be electronically posted on the new www.brookhaven.org website and distributed to libraries and schools.

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