BROOKHAVEN, NY - Brookhaven Town received $3 million more in landfill revenue than was projected in the Town's amended budget for 2008, Councilman Timothy Mazzei announced today as the Town board's liaison to the Department of Waste Management. The additional funds will be deposited in the general fund surplus account, which will be used to stabilize taxes.

"While other municipalities are finding budget shortfalls and a need to reduce staff or services, we're able to announce an additional $3 million in revenue above and beyond what we projected, thanks to conservative budgeting and long range fiscal planning," said Councilman Mazzei.

"This is encouraging news during a difficult economy," said Brookhaven Town Finance Commissioner Charlene Kagel. "It supports the theory of careful budget monitoring."

In 2008, the Town Board undertook a yearlong process to reduce spending, cut waste and find efficiencies within Town government during a time of declining revenues because of the difficult economy. Throughout the course of the year, the entire Town Board was able to institute over $14.2 million in savings to fill revenue shortfalls and other deficiencies in the 2008 spending plan. Early estimates from the Town's Department of Finance indicate that the Town saved an additional $4 million from reduced spending last year, with 2008 expenditures coming in at $160 million, $4 million less than anticipated in the revised budget.

Mazzei cautioned that while the final revenue and spending figures from 2008 were good news and a testament to prudent budget practices implemented by the board, there is much work to be done throughout 2009. "The economy is continuing to take its toll on our residents and local businesses, and has impacted mortgage tax revenues and other revenue sources for the Town. However, by instituting budget reforms that rely on conservative revenue projections, better oversight and responsible planning, we have been able to maintain critical services, and protect our residents from unexpected tax increases," said Mazzei. "We will continue to seek additional revenue sources, and institute long range financial planning for a more measured approach to forecasting revenues to protect our residents during these difficult economic times."

"This is good news in a difficult market," said Commissioner of Waste Management Ed Hubbard. "However, it will require more work next year to generate increased revenue for 2009 by seeking new sources of material for our waste management facility, given the declining revenue from construction and demolition debris."