

# Supervisor Romaine and Town Board Oppose Adoption of \$3.37 Million 2016 LIPA Budget

posted on 12/18/2015 7:56:00 PM

***Budget includes first of three proposed rate increases over next three years to total 7.3%***

**Farmingville, NY** – On December 17, Supervisor Ed Romaine and the Town Board sent a letter (view letter ) to the Long Island Power Authority Board of Trustees in opposition of the \$3.37 million 2016 budget which was adopted on December 16. The letter also stated that the Supervisor and Town Board are in opposition of the three proposed rate increases over the next three years which total 7.3%, calling them “unwise and detrimental to taxpayers.” They requested that the LIPA Board of Trustees reconsider the hike before the budget takes effect in January, 2016.

The letter, which was signed by the entire Town Board, also denounced LIPA for overcharging customers for fuel and questioned how they can continue to increase the charges while fuel costs are decreasing. Finally, the LIPA Board of Trustees are taken to task for neglecting to pay sufficient property taxes on Long Island facilities, including those in Brookhaven town.

In June of this year, Supervisor romaine called on New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to undertake a binding review of the proposed \$440 million LIPA/ PSEG rate increase and reject it. Also in support of the Town was Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy, who previously stood with Supervisor Romaine at an April press conference to announce that Brookhaven would join the County in opposition to the hike.

In May, the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) granted the Town “party status” to intervene as an official party in response to a letter of request sent by Supervisor Romaine. In addition to the Town of Brookhaven, permission was granted to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1049; Nassau County; the Natural Resources Defense Council; NRG Energy, Inc. and Suffolk County.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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