

## *\$21.5 Million Budget*

# No Tax Hike in N. Wildwood

By LAUREN SUIT

**NORTH WILDWOOD** — The city introduced a \$21.5 million budget with no local tax increase on Feb. 20.

The rate will remain at 39.2 cents and equate to \$392 for every \$100,000 of assessed value.

“All the department heads worked very hard on this budget,” Mayor Bill Henfey said as he pointed to the stable tax rate.

“We want a good, clean and safe city,” he added. “But we don’t want a tax increase.”

Prior to 2006, when the city’s revaluation into effect, the city’s local rate

had remained at \$1.31 for several years.

City Administrator Ray Townsend explained that while the 2007 spending plan has shrunk approximately \$129,000 compared to the 2006 budget, the tax levy is expect to be bumped up 2.7 percent.

That increase, he said, could be attributed to pension contributions, and utilities which are up 5.16 percent. Additionally, employe insurance has reportedly increased from \$1.62 million to \$1.85 million.

Salary and wages are also up a little more than 2 percent, but the new budget does not include any new staff hires.

The budget is supported by 13.6 million in local taxes, a \$358,704 increase from last year. It is also made up of a \$1.98 million surplus, up from last year’s 1.8 million surplus.

Despite the city’s expectations for the rate to remain stable, the total rate, including the county and school, hasn’t been determined. Last year, it reached 70 cents per \$100 of assessed value and officials

expect that the number will be similar this year.

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for March 20 at 10 a.m. in Borough Hall.

*Contact Suit at: (609) 886-8600 ext. 25 or [lsuit@cmherald.com](mailto:lsuit@cmherald.com)*