



Town of Amherst

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR LAVIN OUTLINES IMPROVEMENTS TO BUDGET PROCESS

Public Hearing to be held at Senior Center on Oct. 24

Town of Amherst Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin reminds residents that the Town Board continues to accept comment on the proposed 2026 budget, with several opportunities to participate. This is the second year that the Town Board will host a public hearing in the community as a result of Deputy Supervisor Lavin's efforts to improve access for residents. Following the adoption of his Transparency in Budget Process Local Law, the board enhanced transparency, public understanding, and participation in the town's annual budget process.

Taxpayers are welcome to provide comments at the public hearings:

- 10:00 AM Friday, October 24 at the Center for Senior Services, 370 JJ Audubon Parkway, Amherst
- 7:00 PM Monday, October 27 at Amherst Town Hall, 5583 Main Street, Williamsville

"The Budget Transparency local law greatly improved how the Town communicates with taxpayers throughout the budget process. We heard concerns that the process was too complex for many residents, so my local law required that the Town include a Citizen's Budget Overview, which is an easy to read and digest snapshot of the key components of the proposed budget," said Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin. "I want residents to be engaged throughout the budget process and be able to ask questions about how their tax dollars are being used."

By hosting a public hearing at the Senior Center, the town is bringing the issue directly to older residents

What You Need To Know

AMHERST BUDGET 2026

The Town of Amherst proposed 2026 budget is \$178 million [\$1.3M under the NYS tax cap]. Residents will see a **tax rate decrease**. Thanks to growth/economic development, the Town can fund critical services and fixed costs without a increasing taxes.

TRANSPARENCY LAW

Sponsored by Deputy Supervisor Lavin

In 2024, The Amherst Town Board approved Deputy Supervisor Lavin's Transparency in Budget Process Law to enhance transparency, public understanding, and participation in the town's annual budget process. This included the creation of the Citizen's Budget Overview and addition of a public hearing at the Senior Center.



Funds Critical Services

Tax Rate Decrease

**Public Hearings:**
7 PM Tuesday, Oct. 14 at Town Hall
10 AM Friday, Oct. 24 at Senior Center
7 PM Monday, Oct. 27 at Town Hall



Visit TOA Website
www.amherst.ny.us



Email
Budgetcomments@amherst.ny.us

and is held at a time and location that is convenient for them, making it easier to participate.

Deputy Supervisor Lavin added that he has received positive feedback about the improvements, with taxpayers feeling they can easily participate in the process. This includes the Citizen's Budget Overview; a helpful document summarizes the key components of the budget in a format that is easy to understand. As laid out in the Overview, the proposed 2026 budget totals \$178 million, which is under the New York State tax cap, and carries a tax rate decrease.

Deputy Supervisor Lavin encourages residents to use the Online Budget Comment Form to quickly and easily participate in the process. The form can be found here: bit.ly/TOABudgetCommentForm. Additionally, written comments can be provided by emailing Budgetcomments@amherst.ny.us. For complete budget information, visit www.amherst.ny.us and find, "[Budgets and Financials](#)," on the home page. The board held its first public hearing on Oct. 14 at Town Hall.

Deputy Supervisor Lavin's [Local Law No. 2-2024 – Transparency in Budget Process](#) was adopted on March 11, 2024.

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