



Anesh & Bengivenga: Taxes Have Skyrocketed, and it's Time for Accountability

In the final week of the 2009 campaign, Council candidates Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga are once again addressing the most important issue to residents, property taxes.

"Taxes have never gone up like they have this year," said Anesh. "We've paid more this year in three quarters than we did in all four quarters last year. And we still have one more bill to go."

Democratic Mayor Charles Butrico confirmed at the October 5th Council meeting that the fourth-quarter tax bills, which will arrive after the election, will be higher than last year's. They will also be higher than the August bill.

"Petronko and Scudato have condemned high property taxes, but their party has run the town for 13 of the last 14 years," said Bengivenga. "They made all the major decision for more than a decade and had their chance to get long-term finances under control, but they failed."

"So far, we're the only ones to offer a plan to control spending," explained Anesh. "We also have the credentials to do it. From 2003 to 2007 the budget went up on average nearly a million dollars a year. Only after we go a crack at the budget did things improve. We cut spending by over \$500,000."

"We did that in a couple ways," added Bengivenga. "We cut administrative jobs and started working on controlling professional costs. We were starting to see some good results."

One of the best ways to control spending, according to Bengivenga, is to stop waste: "Think about all the wasteful spending. We spent nearly \$500,000 more for the bus-company property on New Market than the property was worth, and now we're stuck with the clean-up."

Another example occurred right after Petronko and Scudato won the 2006 election," added Anesh. "That's when the council sold open space to a Democratic campaign contributor for nearly \$100,000 under market value. That's taxpayer money!"

"Nothing like this occurred when Republicans were in control," said Bengivenga.

Bengivenga and Anesh say it all boils down to accountability. "There have been lots of tax promises over the past decade," said Anesh. "But we all know taxes have gone up. It's time to end the gimmicks. It's time for responsibility and accountability"

To see Matt and Rob's plans for South Plainfield, including their ideas to control spending, go to www.anesh-bengivenga.com.