



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Anesh, McConville & Rusnak: “This year’s tax cut is just the start”

South Plainfield – Pointing out how they’ve defied expectations by cutting taxes and spending, Matt Anesh, Tim McConville, and Ray Rusnak are starting their campaign off by saying they’ll continue to defy expectations in the future.

“Last year we said we wanted to cut spending and make South Plainfield more affordable,” said Council President Matt Anesh, who is running for mayor. “We started doing just that by cutting municipal taxes this year by \$178 for the average family.”

“The other side said it couldn’t be done,” added Rusnak, who is seeking re-election to the Council. “But this year’s budget is actually less than each of the past two years. I don’t know of any other towns in the area where taxes and spending have actually gone down.”

“People are struggling,” added McConville, who’s also seeking re-election.

“They can’t afford the constant million-dollar spending increases they saw under the Democrats.”

“We worked hard to cut spending but not the services people rely on,” added Anesh. Here are a few examples:

- **We streamlined the Public Works Department** – This included reducing administrative costs, re-deploying employees, and eliminating jobs through attrition.
- **We trimmed the size of the Borough’s workforce** – We’ve eliminated about a dozen spots, resulting in a workforce that is smaller and more efficient than a year ago.
- **We renegotiated the agreement with the public works employees** – Starting salaries are 30% less than a year ago, which will produce short- and long-term savings.

- **We saved over \$40,000 by bidding out our recycling programs** – Rather than automatically use the County, we bid out recycling for the first time.
- **We saved over \$200,000 by refinancing debt** – Just like homeowners are refinancing their mortgages, we’ve refinanced our debt. In fact, because our bond rating improved, we’re now paying an interest rate below one percent.

“Our goal is to continue to streamline,” Anesh explained.

Rusnak agreed, saying the GOP team used the same approach for the school-board budget.

While the Council normally has no control over school taxes, it does get involved when residents vote the budget down, which happened this year.

“We were able to reduce the school board’s proposed \$100 increase to slightly less than flat,” Anesh explained.

But according to McConville, they did it the right way.

“Both Matt and I have kids in our schools. We made sure not a single reduction would hurt education.”

According to Rusnak, who headed the review, the Council’s reductions did not result in one less program or teacher.

Just the opposite: The Council recommended ways to bring back programs and teachers, which is now happening.

“This is just the start,” said Anesh. “We’re proving that smaller, more efficient government can work in South Plainfield, and if the voters let us continue, a more affordable South Plainfield is just around the corner.”

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