

**From:** Mayor <[mayor@scarsdale.com](mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com)>  
**Date:** March 29, 2020 at 2:26:41 PM EDT  
**To:** Neil Doppelt <[neil5858@yahoo.com](mailto:neil5858@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject: Re: 2021 Budget**

Neil,

I hope you and your family are and remain well.

Thank you for your email.

The Village Board is very cognizant of not only the current state of our economy but also the very serious impact that COVID-19 may have on Scarsdale residents.

Our first step was to ensure that we had funds in place to cover our emergency response and expected changes to revenue and expense items in the short to medium term. The Village Manager immediately shifted Village operations into austerity mode. Specifically, non-essential expenses were restricted and \$1.78 million was re-allocated from: (i) the current year's operating budget, and (ii) the coming year's budgeted capital plan into a newly formed COVID-19 contingency account. The Village has identified an additional \$1.7 million of available funding sources that are available, if needed, as we continue to get more clarity about the fiscal impacts of this pandemic.

Of course, these are only initial steps. We agree that additional changes to the 20-21 budget may be necessary and intend to conduct several public budget work sessions as we get more specific information. Our intent, as always, is to seek to garner as much public input as possible to help determine the appropriate fiscal priorities and responses. For now, we will continue working under the principle that discretionary spending is suspended.

Our focus has been and will continue to be on our COVID-19 response and the health and safety of the community. But, please know that our austerity mindset will not be lifted until we have more clarity on the immediate and intermediate COVID-related impacts on our community and the Village 20-21 fiscal budget.

Please join us at our budget work session [this Tuesday at 5pm](#) on Zoom or at any of the additional budget meetings we will hold in the coming weeks and months. As always, our meetings are open to the public and we welcome your input.

Be well.

Thank you,

Marc

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 27, 2020, at 10:02 PM, Neil Doppelt <[neil5858@yahoo.com](mailto:neil5858@yahoo.com)> wrote:

**CAUTION:** External sender.

Mr. Mayor: I hope you recognize that the annual "2% more" is gone forever as the benchmark for the Scarsdale budget and taxpayer. This is the time for a complete re-think of how the Village spends taxpayers' money. Tinkering with little cuts here and there and moving monies around from year-to-year and from slush funds to operating budgets is a recipe for disaster--and I mean a real disaster, wherein the Village management grasps at straws, floats bonds for operating expenses, suppresses debate and refuses to do the hard work of really managing.

Thousands of companies and municipalities have been caught in the virus downdraft. Every day many of these entities are announcing significant downward revisions to their forecasts and budgets. We expect the same from Village management.

There is a very narrow window to act responsibly or to kick the can down the road and hope for the best. I urge you --entreat you -- to dramatically reduce the next budget (my target would be 25%) by whatever means possible: across the board cuts, cleaving off whole pieces of the proposed budget, or a combination. Don't curl up and hide on this one.

Neil Doppelt  
63 Drake Road