



Borough Council Year-End Goals Review

December 9, 2024

Fiscal Strength

- ✓ Unanimous adoption of fiscally responsible 2024 budget
- ✓ 4th straight year of municipal tax rate decreases
- ✓ Healthy fund balance and cash reserves
- ✓ Bond rating upgrade to AAA – only 5% of NJ municipalities have a AAA rating
- ✓ State & County grants providing taxpayer relief:
 - \$542,000 County & State grants for Station property renovation
 - \$234,500 NJ DOT grant for Powerville Road paving
 - \$170,000 NJ DOT grant for Briarcliff Road Paving (2025)
- ✓ Successful audit of 2023 finances
- ✓ Multi-year effort to settle long-standing tax appeals substantively complete, protecting Borough finances



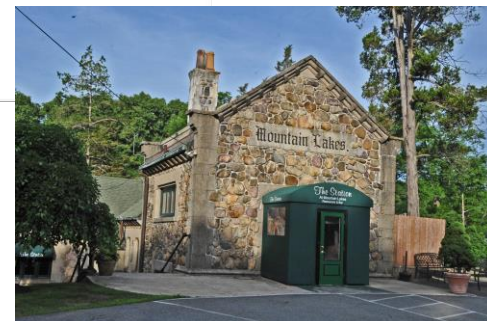
Operational Effectiveness

- ✓ New Borough Hall & Public Safety Facilities open to the public
- ✓ State-mandated Sunset Dam project substantively complete
- ✓ Trolley Path grant-funded improvements (phase 1) completed; grant submitted for phase 2
- ✓ 2024 road & sidewalk improvements completed
- ✓ Robust Recreation & Library programming for Lakers of all ages
- ✓ Support for traditional and new community events, including Memorial Day Parade, PBA Block Party, Fire Dept Fun Run, July Fireworks & Swim/Boat Races, Summer Concert Series, Fall Fest, Diwali Celebration, Christmas Tree Lighting, Menorah Lighting
- In Process: Engineering & design for state-mandated Water Remediation, including evaluation of potential funding sources
- In Process: Water Meter Replacement project (90% complete)
- In Process: Lead/Galvanized Steel Line Replacement Planning



Community Stewardship & Development

- ✓ Achieved renewed Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey, a multi-year effort involving many sustainability initiatives
- ✓ Improved hydro-raking (lakes maintenance) program
- ✓ Grant request submitted for long-term lakes management planning
- ✓ Activities to mark 100th anniversary of the Borough's incorporation
- ✓ Construction documents completed and County & State grants secured for exterior historic renovation of Station property
- ✓ Opening of Veterans Housing and Wawa on Rt. 46
- ✓ Approval of Commemorative Bench Program
- ✓ Enforcement of new Commercial Landscaping Hours ordinance in response to community concerns
- In Process: Review of land use ordinances for consistency, clarity, and efficiency
- In Process: Consideration of opting into the Highlands Regional Master Plan & evaluation of Highlands grant opportunities



Openness, Responsiveness & Engagement

- ✓ Town Hall focused on public safety concerns, a collaboration of Mountain Lakes Police and State and County law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Outreach to Federal, State & County levels of government on issues of importance, including securing grants to support Borough priorities and provide taxpayer relief
- ✓ Partnership with Mountain Lakes School District on two new School Resource Officer positions
- ✓ 150+ residents serving as Borough volunteers, including over 40 young people serving as Student Committee Members and Junior Volunteer Firefighters
- ✓ Transparent budget process and quarterly review of financials – information shared with the public and reviewed at Finance Advisory Committee and Council meetings



THANK YOU

**to our Borough volunteers, employees,
and professionals for your contributions to
our community!**