

Letter from the Supervisor

***NOTE**: We will have a **Town Hall** on **Protecting the Lake** this Monday, **11/16 at 6pm**!*
Hope to see you there!

Welcome to 'Stick Season' ...

As the world grows quiet and the autumn colors fade, 'stick season' commences as our trees stand bare and we wait for winter to arrive. Here in the Bristol Hills, it seems to settle in just after Election Day. I want to thank everyone who participated. Our town had one of the highest turnouts in the county, and that's due to the incredible work of many volunteers in both campaigns who encouraged our community to come out to the polls. I also want to acknowledge my opponent for stepping forward and participating in the process. While we may have different perspectives, I appreciate the willingness of those who are ready to serve our community.

Of course, I want to thank all of you for placing your trust in me for a second term—I'm proud of the work our board has done in 2026, and I look forward to finishing out the year and getting off to a strong start this January. In addition, Proposition 1 passed, ensuring future supervisors will serve 4-year terms. This does not affect the supervisor's term this time, which will end 2028. But those who are elected in 2028 (and in future years) for supervisor will serve 4-year terms.

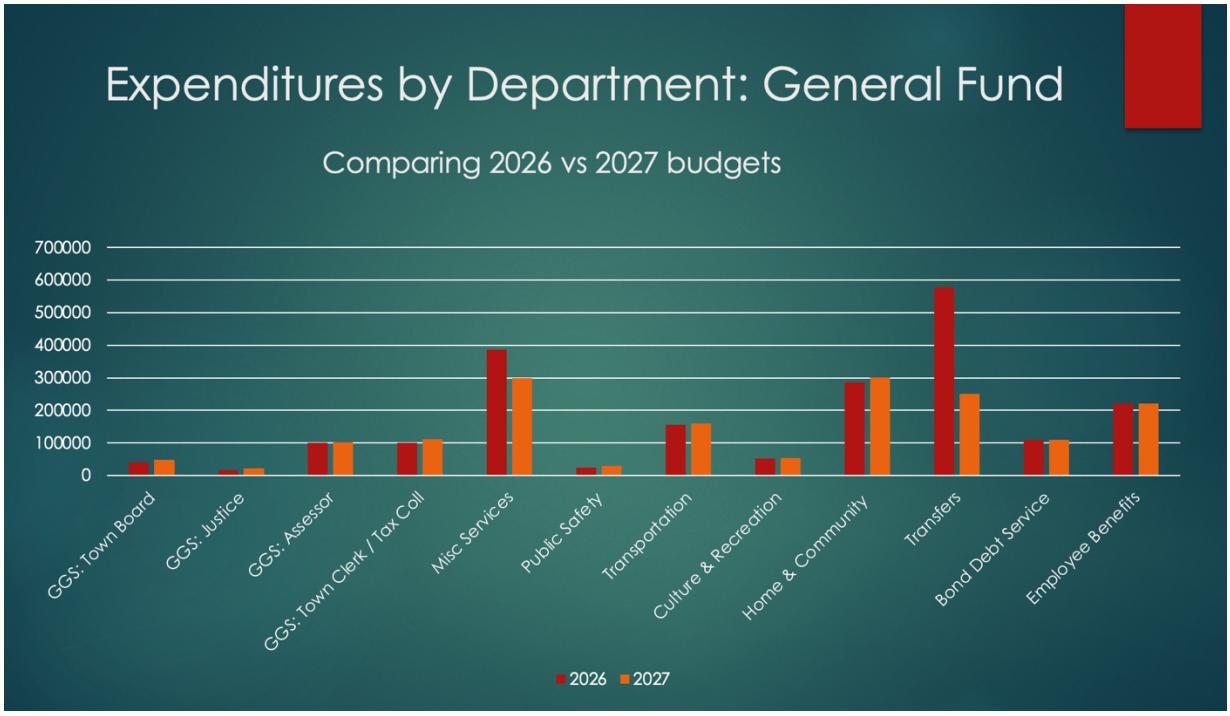
I am pleased to announce the passage of our **2027 Budget**! Our department heads, town board, town committees – especially the finance committee – and others put a great deal of time and thought into this plan.

Most important, **residents will not see their taxes go up in 2027**.

Town of South Bristol Tax Levy
No Changes in Tax Rates

From Budgeted Taxes	2026	2027	Tax Rate
A Fund (General)	$166,285	$166,296	.32/$1000 (no change)
DA Fund (Highway)	$360,021	$360,021	.69/$1000 (no change)
SF Fund (Fire)	$313,237	$345,008	
Total	**$839,543**	**$871,325**	
Under Tax Cap:	$9,420	$2,052	

This 2027 budget looks similar to the 2026 budget, as you can see from the following figure.



As can be seen here: overall Departmental Expenditures are flat or reduced. Reductions include the cost of “miscellaneous services” as the renovation of town hall and an overall IT upgrade are in their final phase for 2026.

The town typically transfers a significant amount each year to the highway budget – one of the most important services the town provides – but prudent planning over the years allows the town to budget more conservatively. Careful accounting for the income the town expects, and sensible trimming elsewhere, made this 2027 budget possible.

While we do not have a crystal ball, we can anticipate that our financial pressure points include rising costs and severe weather, as well as debt payments for the bond undertaken to pay for the highway barn. In the coming months, the town board will take up these concerns as well as consider how best to prepare for future equipment purchases for the highway as equipment ages out. These can strain a small town's finances, and in 2027 the town will create a multi-year plan to safeguard South Bristol's future.

As a reminder: we hope you will join us **this Monday**, November 16, for a **Talk with the Supervisor** at **6pm** on our last Community Conversation addressing the topic of **Protecting the Lake**. This is the final event in the 3-part series, following the panel discussion we had last month, sponsored by our Community Engagement Committee.



October's panel on Protecting the Lake featured speakers **Bruce Gilman**, FLCC; **Sam Seymour**, AquaPoint; **Meghan Webster**, Ontario County Soil & Water; and **Emily DeBolt** of CLWA. **Lenore Friend**, Co-chair of the Community Engagement Committee, and Board Liaison **Jamie Hall**, moderated.

In addition, we continue to make progress on a proposed local law concerning data centers in South Bristol. The law has now been through review by South Bristol's Planning Board, SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review), and the Ontario County Planning Board, as well as South Bristol Code Enforcement. I have also consulted with the director of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council.

We have received public comment in a previous public hearing and two town board meetings. On **Monday, December 14, at 6pm**, a second **Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law Concerning Data Centers** will be held at the South Bristol Town Hall. Please come and share your thoughts. At this point, the town is prepared to take up the law and determine if it is in the best interest of the town to enact it. Mark your calendar.



Finally, in remembrance of Veterans Day, the town extends its gratitude to all our veterans – and those who serve today. A call-out to U.S. Air Force **Staff Sargent David Hefti** of South Bristol, who was one of 32 who recently received a state commendation for service in the Annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony. The Community Engagement Committee will also sponsor a rededication of our **Veterans Memorial Garden** on **Saturday, December 19,** as part of the celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary and the 10th year of our Veterans Garden. Later that day, the Bristol Hills Historical Society will participate in the National Wreaths Across America Day. A display about the rededication is at the South Bristol Town Hall.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Lisa