

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Braiden McElhaney Calls for Stronger Oversight and Fiscal Responsibility in Wake of Audit Findings**



*Orchard Park, NY – June 18, 2025* — In response to the recently released audit revealing a \$105,000 discrepancy in the Orchard Park Tax Receiver's Office, Braiden McElhaney, candidate for Orchard Park Town Council and local realtor, is calling for greater oversight and accountability in local government operations.

"This audit underscores what many in our community already feel—we need competent leadership at every level of our town government," McElhaney said. "Taxpayer dollars must be handled with transparency, urgency, and precision. These findings are not just about an overpayment—they're about a failure of process and a lack of safeguards that could have far more serious consequences."

The audit, conducted by Drescher and Malecki, revealed delays in remitting tax collections and unreconciled accounts well into the following tax year. While no funds were deemed missing, McElhaney emphasized that fiscal mismanagement—intentional or not—erodes public trust.

"As a realtor, I understand the importance of financial clarity and timely transactions. Our residents deserve a government that treats public funds with the same seriousness," McElhaney continued. "We must prioritize modernizing our systems, supporting appropriate staffing levels, and ensuring every department meets the highest standards of fiscal responsibility."

McElhaney supports measures like stricter deadlines for reconciliation, performance benchmarks for elected positions, and stronger internal controls to prevent future discrepancies. He also voiced openness to structural changes, including re-evaluating whether certain roles should remain consolidated.

"It's not about placing blame—it's about preventing future breakdowns. Orchard Park families work too hard to see their money mismanaged. It's time for new leadership ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work."

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