

“And for the second year in a row, he wants to exceed the tax cap”

The Facts:

1. The 2025 budget was increased by 4% from the previous year. Please remember that Dan Woolaver was not the Supervisor prior to 2024 and many issues were identified when he took office that needed to be corrected or improved upon and required expenditures to accomplish.
2. The preliminary proposed budget increase for 2026 was **2% and within the tax cap**. The Board did **consider** a resolution to allow exceeding the cap but it was not needed and not voted upon. In addition, the preliminary budget is only a starting point of department requested funds. Did you know in the two-month period between mid-August and mid-October 2025 the Town Board held 9 Public Meetings totaling over 20 hours including four budget workshops, the first ever all department manager meeting, and a public meeting with the Town’s benefit consultant, all to explore ways of further reducing expenditures. The current updated 2026 Town Budget reflects an increase of under 2% which is under the tax cap. The town has been subject to significant increases in costs, as we have been at our homes, including significant increases in healthcare and other costs. We believe the 2026 budget was handled in a responsible manner and believe **a budget increase of under 2% is an excellent accomplishment under the circumstances.**

“Dan Woolaver approved the 2025 town wide reassessment.”

The Facts: A municipal-wide reassessment ensures that each property assessment is fair and accurate. In times of inflation property values change. Few of us would sell our homes for what it was valued at five years ago. Reassessments do not mean your taxes will increase, as generally most assessments change similarly and tax rates go down proportionally, with the end result being similar taxes. Also, as parts of the Rush are in different school districts, not regularly re-assessing can have a negative impact related to taxes charged Rush residents by those school districts.

The Highway Department – various claims made include - “The Town bought a top of the line truck not just a regular truck”

The Facts: A 2025 pick-up truck was purchased for use by the highway department. It replaced an aging 2013 pick-up. Yes, it does have a fuel transfer storage tank in the bed, which **may make it appear** to be an unusual truck but it actually allows for fueling equipment when on work sites, resulting in efficient operations of the department. And also, to set the record straight, the Town Supervisor **does not nor have they ever had** a town provided vehicle.

Also, expressed was a concern that highway departments fund balance has declined.

The Facts: Did you know on January 1, 2025 the New York State’s climate initiative Clean Truck Rule took effect. A recent article on WRGB notes the rule **“puts a sales mandate in place on the vehicle manufacturers ... they have to sell so many electric trucks in order to continue to sell diesel trucks,”** The Town of Wilton Highway Superintendent was quoted stating *“no truck manufacturers make an electric truck that would have the hydraulic capabilities ... to run salt, put the product down, and to lift our plow and wing up,” ... “Those are all hydraulic functions that an electric truck is not going to offer. So, it does make it very difficult for us to replace our equipment.”* When Rush had the opportunity to purchase a diesel plow/dump truck a year before scheduled, it moved forward. The Town Highway Superintendent and Board believe it is not in the best interest of town residents to trust our future plowing and road repairs to untested and in many cases unworkable electric technology – We call that good management. Also note, the average age of Rush Highway Department vehicles is over 12 years, and appropriately maintained.

Lee Hankins further stated Dan Woolaver ... is “pushing to change from a 2 year or 4-year term. Fair compensation, yes, but our town should not be a self-serving cash cow!”

This statement sounds dramatic but is **totally baseless**, and to say– a self-serving cash cow! **Is inappropriate.** The statement is not even attributed to any document or origin. Please be aware, Rush changed from a four year to a two-year supervisor approximately 20 years ago through a townwide referendum. Even if someone wanted to change it back to a four-year position, it would require a petition from the townspeople and approval by all voters, through a Town Wide referendum at election time.

So while some are out going door to door and posting on social media claims attacking our current elected officials, Our elected officials are working hard, putting in many hours to address town challenges. Please consider the hard work and quality job our Town Leaders are doing.