

STATE OF THE BOROUGH

JANUARY 3, 2017

I would like to first welcome everyone here this evening for our 2017 Reorganization meeting. Tonight the oath of office will be given to Councilwoman Dawn Hudson and Councilman Tony Costa. I congratulate each of them on their reelection.

I would like to start by thanking our Governing Body for their commitment and service to our Borough. I would also like to thank all of our Borough Staff for their hard work and dedication to Bloomingdale. Thank you to Chief Joe Borell and our fine police Department for keeping Bloomingdale safe. I also would like to congratulate and thank our fine Volunteer Fire Department for all that they do and welcome our New Fire Chief Tony Marciano. And a special Thank you to all of our dedicated residents who volunteer their time on the Borough's Boards and Commissions.

As we begin 2017 it is certainly with a bright outlook due to the hard work of this governing body, Borough staff and all of our citizen volunteers.

As 2016 closes I would like to recap many of the improvements achieved throughout our community.

1. We continue the capital investment by paving over 60% of our Borough roads in 4 years.
2. We continue to invest in our aging utility infrastructure with the complete Sewer and Water line replacements on 7 roads.
3. We have received over \$3,000,000 in grants to help offset cost to our taxpayers. These grants range from road paving, utility work and recreation projects.
4. We successfully petitioned FEMA to fix erroneous Flood mapping resulting in 150 of our resident's homes being permanently removed out of a flood zone. The project will save millions of dollars in unnecessary insurance premiums for our residents.
5. We have implemented a tax abatement program to spark redevelopment in our downtown and also help homeowners save on tax dollars when they do home improvements.
6. We successful obtained A FEMA grant to install permanent generators at Firemen's Hall and our Senior Center. This will provide proper sheltering in time of an emergency and allow our Senior Lunch program to continuously run if with loss of power.
7. We have continued Flood Mitigation projects and Storm water maintenance programs to lessen the impacts of flooding to our residents.
8. We continue our Recreation investment with the completion of the Phase 1 Drainage project at the Walter T Bergen field as well as the installation of our new fitness equipment installed at the new walking track.
9. We have begun a Mayors Wellness Campaign with our Board of Health to instill a healthy lifestyle for your residents. Look for more programming in 2017
10. We continue to stabilize our Municipal Tax rate with smart financial planning as well as increasing revenues.

11. We have controlled our Municipal Budgets with an annual average of 1.7% increase over 4 years, which is a great accomplishment considering the cost of Health Care, pensions, contractual obligation and the cost of simply running and maintaining the Borough day to day.
12. We continue to reduce our debt while still doing many capital improvements.
13. We have concluded a 4 year negotiation with Tilcon that will bring the much needed revenue to ensure our bright future. Now, while this was a difficult decision we know that with the increase of annual revenues in excess of \$2,00,000 and one time fees in excess of \$12,000,000 that in the very near future, we will be able to continue investment, drastically reduce our debt and ultimately lower our Municipal tax rate as well as Sewer and Water fees.

I look forward to 2017 as we continue this progress. We will continue our 10 year road paving plan, including sidewalks and curbing in many years so sorely needed. We will continue to petition FEMA to correct additional erroneous mapping issues in the FLATS area of the town. In 2017, we need to protect and invest in our Fire Department with new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. We will continue recreation investment with Phase 2 of the Walter T Bergen field drainage project paid for by a \$200,000 recreation grant obtained from Passaic County. We will see the Grand opening of our new community garden, thanks to the hard work of Councilwoman Hudson. In 2017 we will see the Grand Opening of Sloan Park. This project will stop future Main Street flooding and a new decorative bridge will be installed. Our goal for 2017 is bring Concert series to the park as well as a beautiful botanical walking garden to be enjoyed by all residents.

We are currently in negotiation with a few developers. The Borough will ultimately name a town redeveloper who will not only make the Smart Growth and huge revenue on the Tilcon property become a reality, they will also be committed to a downtown revitalization and implement the Borough's Vision plan once and for all. This will result in a more desirable tax rate and a reduction in our utility fees. The vision will assist in attracting new businesses and families to town. This Redevelopment will also ensure that our current families and seniors can stay in our wonderful town. This project will support our current businesses as well as develop a thriving downtown with shops and cafes that we all can be proud of.

In closing I thank all of our residents for their continued support. It is you our residents who are the backbone of our community and I challenge you to get involved in town. Whether it be to attend a council meeting, coach a youth sports team, serve on a Board or Commission or simply call or email me with issues, ideas and suggestions—all are welcome. I consider our community to be a team. We are all members of this team, starting with me as your Mayor, the Council, our staff, our volunteers and all resident. When this team all strives for the same goals of making Bloomingdale the best it can be then we can do nothing but succeed.

I wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jon Dunleavy

