

COMMITTEE PERSON MARK CONFORTI

I would also like to thank everyone for coming. As I said last year, speaking last is always very interesting. Everybody basically talks about everything that I've been thinking. The trick is trying to keep everyone from looking at their Smart Phones while I talk for a couple of minutes.

Congratulations to Ed on becoming Mayor and Rich on becoming Deputy Mayor. Thank you Pat for your service in 2016 as Mayor.

I think 2016 was a very interesting year. Not only in keeping costs down, but also in the Police department. As everyone has mentioned, we went through a big transition in 2016. We were able to hire from within. Tom Wain has been with us for a long time. My daughter still thinks of him as the DARE officer in the high school from 14 years ago. I think that says a lot about our Police department and says a lot also about our hiring practices and procedures. Not only did we hire Captain Wain, but we also filled our Lieutenant spot from within, so I think that's really great and it tells us we are in great shape. They do a great job, and everyone in the Township tells us that. I always look at that as a benchmark for knowing that we did our job well. As I said last year, if we do really well nobody notices we're here.

Also, when I talk about things like health and safety, we have a lot of road projects we are doing this year. We are finally working on Cherry Valley Road. This all requires money, and somehow we've been able to keep things fiscally responsible. We've been able to cut where we've needed to cut.

I wanted to mention the developments that Rich and others mentioned earlier. It is interesting from a Master Plan perspective. This is really it for us, this is the end of the ability for ratables in commercial retail. Otherwise is it all residential. I think, with the department of Planning led by Lori Savron and everyone who works with Donato, I am very confident that these developments will fit the pattern of the community and people will be happy with them. Unfortunately as they are starting to be built, it looks like an eye-sore as you tear down everything in their path. Safe to say, a year from

now you are going to be pleased with what you see. I know, since I work on the budget with Michael, Donato and others, that over the next three or four years we're going to be seeing some ratables so that we're not overtaxing the residents. The more we can provide the best services possible, the better off everyone is. That is the ultimate goal.

Thank you and I wish everyone a happy new year.