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Dear friends and neighbors,

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I wanted to acknowledge all our women borough employees, board members, volunteers, coaches, library staff, etc. for your part in making Old Tappan the great town it is. *Thank you!!*

Wanted to give a quick update on some of the happenings in Old Tappan this past month. As I've reported earlier, we are very close to wrapping up our 2024 municipal budget and hope to have it introduced in late March with an early April passage. Once again, the Council and I feel it is fiscally responsible while addressing the needs of our residents.

The Council and I will be discussing several important topics during our March 4th and March 18th Council meetings, and we encourage all to be informed about these topics.

- The Council will consider a Resolution opposing Assembly Bill A4 and Senate Bill S50 which makes drastic changes to current Affordable Housing legislation by eliminating the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and potentially increasing the burden on small communities like Old Tappan. To be clear, Old Tappan is not against affordable housing, just the outrageous demands the courts are mandating. I encourage all to reach out to your Assembly and State Senators and voice your opinions.
- We will be considering an update to our Tree Preservation & Removal ordinance. Our Environmental Commission, Borough Engineer, Construction Code Official and Planning Board all had input on these potential modifications.
- The Council will also be discussing our current and future Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrangements. For nearly 85 years, the dedicated members of the Old Tappan Volunteer Ambulance Corps have been answering our calls in our time of need. Unfortunately, with the strain on these dedicated volunteers, several options need to be considered and I encourage all to be informed. Providing reliable, compassionate, cost effective and timely service is of utmost importance.

In closing, Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all and a very blessed Easter later this month.

Hope to see you at an upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gallagher

Mayor
Borough of Old Tappan