

**Dear High Knob Property Owners,
November 23, 2024**

This year presented unique challenges for your board as we worked to determine the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Budgeting is never easy, especially when addressing costs more than six months in advance, in an economy filled with uncertainties.

We want to share the key factors driving many of our decisions:

1. **Preservation of High Knob:** This includes maintaining our roads, supporting staff, and ensuring they have the necessary tools to serve our community effectively.
2. **Security of Resources:** Protecting the community's assets remains a priority.
3. **Expansion of Resources and New Projects:** While many of you proposed exciting ideas, we had to carefully evaluate these against the potential financial impact on property owners.

Unfortunately, some great ideas had to be set aside due to concerns about significant cost increases for many property owners, driven by the new model for calculating assessments. This shift, required by the county, moves us away from flat fees for improved lots to a tax-based assessment, complicating the budgeting process.

Over the past couple of years, we have faced higher-than-anticipated increases to cover unplanned expenses. This experience has emphasized the need to manage costs carefully while spreading major maintenance expenses over time to stabilize future budgets.

As detailed in the attached report, this year's budget reflects our efforts to balance these priorities. We welcome your feedback and ideas as we finalize our proposal. The board has already held four meetings focused on budget development, encouraging community input, and we will continue to do so. There's still time to make your voice heard!

Please share your questions, comments, or suggestions in the coming weeks as you review the proposed budget. Our deadline to submit the final budget to the county is the last week of December, in line with other Warren County Sanitary Districts.

To ensure your input is considered, email your feedback to the High Knob office, and our staff will forward it to all board members. Based on the feedback received, the board will vote on December 22 to approve and submit the final budget to the county for review.

Thank you for your support,

Watts Hill

President, on behalf of your Board of Directors