

Republicans warned of budget woes

To the Editors:

I agree with last week's editorial ("Welcome to Albany South"). The Town Board needs to focus more on the budget crisis. However, the paper was misleading in seeming to attribute "poor judgment" to the entire board for a "ridiculously high estimate for projected mortgage revenue for 2009 despite being in the middle of a major recession." These numbers were prepared and presented by the supervisor in his 2009 budget, which he delivered to the public more than a month late. Peter DeLucia and Al Perruzza, the Republican minority on the board, could not have been

clearer in their opposition to the supervisor's budget projections, and were the only no votes to its adoption.

In voting against the 2009 budget, Mr. Perruzza warned that "revenues are going down faster than costs." Mr. DeLucia stated, "We had the responsibility to make sure our budget was as lean as possible. More should have been done."

I feel for Town Board member Bruce Pavalow, who is generally known as being a budget hawk. Mr. Pavalow voted yes on the budget, probably out of a misguided sense of loyalty toward his fellow Democrats. However, in doing so he joined Mr. Perruzza

and Mr. DeLucia in exacting a representation from the supervisor that work on fixing the budget would begin immediately, in January. And that he would develop a plan in an open process that would include the Town Board members and department heads.

The supervisor's promise remains unfulfilled, even as we approach the time for work on the 2010 budget to begin.

WAYNE COLUCCINI
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Town Committee Chairman
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