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CONTACT: Mayor Jonathan Hornik

PHONE: (732) 536-0200 ext. 1200

## **MAYOR HORNIK ANNOUNCES AAA S&P GLOBAL BOND RATING**

### **Marlboro's AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed**

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (April 11, 2018) – S&P Global Ratings (S&P) reaffirmed its long term rating to AAA on Marlboro Township's general obligation (GO) debt and assigned a AAA rating to the Township's 2018 GO bonds. The AAA designation is the highest rating assigned to issues of debt.

"Marlboro's credit remains the highest grade available in the marketplace", stated Mayor Hornik. "This means that our taxpayers continue to benefit from the lowest possible costs for road, parks and recreation and other capital improvements."

In its report, S&P highlights the Township's conservative budgeting, fiscal practices and low debt levels.

"This rating is a direct reflection of the Township's conservative budgeting, maintenance of and adherence to strong fiscal policies," said Mayor Hornik. "The Township's balance sheet continues to improve due to conservative budgeting and strong operating results."

S&P upgraded Marlboro's credit rating to AA+ in 2015. In 2017, Marlboro's credit rating was upgraded again, to AAA, the second credit rating upgrade in two years.

"We have made a number of difficult decisions during challenging economic times, decisions which have ultimately resulted in a brighter fiscal outlook," stated Mayor Hornik. "The Township Council's continued review of the Township's finances and involvement in the budget process have been critical to our success. Our employees must also be recognized for implementing the policies which ultimately got us to this point."

As part of its review, S&P also reviewed the Township's six year capital plan and noted Marlboro's strong commitment to capital improvements going forward.

"We continue to make the case that investments in infrastructure, especially at a time of historically low interest rates is good policy, which is why we are dedicating \$5 million to road improvements in 2018", said Hornik. "Marlboro's philosophy with respect to an active and managed capital program was validated in this rating review. The AAA credit rating enables us to invest in our infrastructure at the lowest costs available."

As of March 12, 2018, only 29 municipalities, representing 5% of New Jersey towns were rated AAA by S&P.

“AAA ratings are hard to come by, and equally if not more challenging to maintain. I am proud that an independent rating agency has reaffirmed the Township’s credit”, stated Mayor Hornik. “This review is yet another validation of our fiscal decisions and practices and another great victory for Marlboro taxpayers.”

S&P noted that while the Township continues to make its annually required pension contribution to the State of New Jersey, the State pension system is chronically underfunded. “Local government continues to pay its share, and historically the State has shirked its obligation,” stated the Mayor. “In the context of our review, S&P reiterated its concern regarding the long term health of the State system. I am hopeful that with a new Administration in Trenton, the State will take a more responsible approach to its stewardship of the pension system.”

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