

August 2016 Supervisor's report

This month's activities seemed to be centered around trying to tie up some loose ends on items the Town has been working on. In this regard I'm pleased to announce that the compliance letter to DEC regarding the inspection issues with Sleepy Hollow was formally signed and sent to DEC. I haven't received a response from them, but I am pleased with the efforts made by the Town and especially thank David Sterio and the Highway department for their help with this.

Another plus was that the paperwork was signed and forwarded to Albany regarding the grant for renovations to the Community Center. I expect to receive more formal response from them. I also anticipate that we will have a formal press release and photo opportunity in the near future.

In this period of tight budgets, when all municipalities are dealing with an unreasonable Tax Cap (this year's cap is anticipated to be about .60) after years of constraining budgets, it seems that the only potential relief is to try to increase revenues. This includes working to encourage more business and more development. We are continuing to work with the Neumann Group to secure a proposed student housing. We will work to keep the Board informed of progress. Additionally, we are aware that Champlain Valley Speciality of NY is considering expanding. We have been in contact with this group and will try to show that the Town of Oswego is working to provide a favorable and productive business environment. Because these efforts also rely on other resources, the town has begun try to find and secure other funding sources. In this regard we have submitted additional paperwork to meet the requirements of the USDA Rural Development office in efforts to get some funding for a new snowplow. We have also completed an application for a grant to study the feasibility of expanding sewer services to Town residents. This is also seen as a vital step towards improving business opportunities within the Town.

On a less positive note, this month the Town was several days later in issuing the Town payroll. This was something that should have been avoided and I deeply regret it was allowed to happen. In a separate communication to the Board, I have addressed this issue and have instituted steps to prevent this from happening in the future. If the Board or community members which further information, I will gladly shape appropriate information.

One important issue we are working to resolve is a new contract with the City of Oswego regarding the Ontario Heights Sewer District. I feel we are within reach of an agreement and have provided within the Town Board packet a synopsis of the issues and activities. This information will be available in my office for review.

This month saw the retirement of another long time Town employee; Deputy Highway Superintendent Frank Ferguson has retired after 31 & ½ years of outstanding service. We thank him for his service and wish him well in retirement.

It is an honor to recognize the achievements of members of the community. We strive to make the Town of Oswego a vibrant community; a good place to live, to raise a family and to do business. Therefore, we are pleased to note the Jake Myers has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. We will be presenting a resolution for Jake in tonight's agenda.