

July 2016 Supervisor's report

In an attempt to be a little more organized this month, I will address issues in the order as they appear on the agenda or in the packet provided to the Town Board members.

There were a few items on this month's abstract that resulted in over-expenditures to the budget. These are largely due to items not foreseen when the budget was prepared and are mostly increases in the normal cost of doing business. Some of these added costs, notably the costs for a Town engineer, will be covered under anticipated agreements (such as with developers applying for planning/build projects) or grants; thus as anticipated increased revenues are received they will offset some of the over-expenditures. However, increased health care costs continue to be a large issue. I plan to address this issue and resulting budget constraints in the coming month as I continue preparations for the 2017 budget. I am hopeful that we will have a workshop prior to next month's meeting to discuss some proposals regarding the budget and the development of the budget.

One of the ongoing issues facing the Town is the area of enforcement of existing codes, zoning and building regulations. Last month we issued year-to-date reports regarding all complaints, building permits & inspections and violations. The reports for June only shows permits and inspections for the month, but there is a summary: Complaints & Violations (for) 2016. This report is updated regularly by Debbie Hogan after meeting weekly with the Town CEO. This report is readily available in the Town office, and will continue to be submitted with the Town Board Agenda. Additionally, there was a specific request for follow-up from Councilman Greg Herrmann, and that request and follow-up is included in the packet. There are also copies of several letters or emails regarding Town activities included in the back of the Town Board packet. While I feel we have worked to improve the Town's monitoring of complaints/violations and the issues of existing codes, zoning and building regulations, this will continue to be an emphasis by the Town. Currently the Planning Board is reviewing the Town's Comprehensive Plan and all the material provided to the Board will be made available to them as they continue their process. I plan to review all of the material personally and to recommend other actions, including possible involvement of the Town's attorney in the next month. I hope that we will soon have some better resolutions to a number of on-going issues.

Enclosed in the packet is a copy of a Public Notice from Metropolitan Water Board regarding the closure of the water treatment road effective Monday 7/18/2016. I had asked that this notice be sent to all Board Members as well as posted on the Town's website & Facebook page.

Enclosed also is a letter from DASNY regarding the SAM grant: this is the grant for renovations to the Town's Community Center. I anticipate the remaining paperwork to go out this week. We are moving forward to receive the funds needed for improvements to the facility.

The Town has received copies of Rural Development Community Facility Program application filed on our behalf by BCA Engineers & Architects. A copy has been forwarded to the Highway Superintendent and a copy will be available in the Supervisor's office should anyone wish to review it. We are requesting funds to assistance with the purchase of a new snowplow to replace ageing equipment. The Town has previously had an equipment replacement policy, which would be continued and the Town would have supply any additional funds needed. Additionally, Kris Dimmick, our Town Engineer has advised us of possible NY state funds for the repair of bridges. I have included a resolution to approve funds authorizing a professional review of the Thompson Road bridge over Rice Creek in anticipation of filing for grant funding.

There is a resolution to advertise for bids for a 2004 John Deere Loader, which is to be listed as surplus equipment. I have been informed that this equipment is in need of repair, often was not able to complete the work required, and is no longer used.

All the Town Supervisors in the County were invited to a meeting of a County Wide Fire District Sub-Committee Meeting Wednesday July 13th at the County building. I plan to attend this meeting. I had sent, via email, some concerns to Greg Herrmann and to Terry Wilbur, one of our legislators. I'm hoping for an informal meeting after tonight's Board meeting. Given my concerns and the initial feedback I have received; I am opposed to a county wide fire district. I believe that our Town is supported admirably by our Fire Department. I don't see how a county wide district would offer better service or be staffed by members with as high of a concern for the people of the Town than currently exists.