

December 12, 2017

Supervisor's report

It seems like the theme this month was 'Hazard Mitigation'. This has focused on three main areas; 1) The Federally declared disaster from the incidents of high water levels in Lake Ontario and associated storms; 2) the process of Oswego County working to update the formal Hazard Mitigation plan; and 3) the storm that occurred at the end of October which resulted in flooding on five roads within the town, along with flooding of the Ontario Heights Pump Station.

On December 12, Highway Superintendent David Sterio and I attended a FEMA workshop in Fulton regarding applications for disaster relief funding. This was a mandatory meeting and the first step toward recovering assistance for damages to Town properties. FEMA has damage estimates for two areas where the roads were flooded for a total of \$10,000. There would be a 25% match, but the match will come from funds already spent by the Town to repair damage incurred. At the meeting I signed the paperwork required to start the recovery process, as there was a very tight deadline for initial submission. In addition to seeking recovery funds, we will also examine whether there would be any additional funding for mitigation to avoid future flooding

In response to the severe funding event the end of October, the Town has been working to process claims to obtain insurance recovery for costs associated with this event. Additionally, we have worked to get Ontario Heights pump station back on-line and operating as best we can. There are still items to be repaired, but work is in progress. Due to some of the issues involved with this facility, it has become increasingly important to get a viable replacement for the pump station in place as soon as feasible. To the end we have met with representatives of Lakeside Commons and are working with them to get the new replacement station installed. A new proposal for the design of the station is expected soon and we are optimistic that progress is being made.

I recently met again with a number of other local municipal officials as we examined the steps needed, and information to be gathered for the revision of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Given the recent hazards we have encountered, it has become obvious that revisions are needed. In addition to new and changing facilities within the Town, we have been presented with proposed new Flood Plain Maps and revised NYS construction codes. I hope to meet with Town Officials in the near future to review this material and develop the Town's portion to the county's plan.

As I have previously mentioned, at the end of this year, the labor contract with Teamsters Local 317, who represent the Town employees, expires. We have been working hard with them to produce a workable agreement. Meetings have been cordial and productive and I believe that soon there will be an agreement in place. While the union works hard to represent their members, they have shown an understanding of the hurdles faced by the Town of Oswego, and indeed many other local municipalities. In these tough times, the Town of Oswego, and the employees, staff, administration and union all have worked to resolve many of the fiscal issues at hand. I believe that we are all will benefit from these efforts.