

**June 13, 2017**

## **Supervisor's report**

It was gratifying to be able to attend the formal ground-breaking ceremony for the Lakeside Commons housing project on June 7, 2017. It was well attended, and quite reassuring to see and hear from all the parties that will be involved. It was a nice ceremony and acknowledged to hard work by many who helped get us to this point. This project looks to provide much benefit to the Town of Oswego and its residents. We look forward to seeing this project take shape.

One of the mandates (unfunded) passed along as part of the Governor's budget was a mandated Shared Services Panel. This panel, part of the "County-wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI) is being directed by the county and has a representative from every municipality in the county. We have had several meetings and there has also many sub-group meetings. This is a difficult process but one that appears to be progressing better than in some other areas of the state. There are many positives to shared services within the county, and many of the municipalities have been working for quite some time to improve working agreements. There are a number initiatives being considered, but it appears unlikely that substantial projects will be able to be completed soon. As Chair of a sub-group consisting of the Towns of Minetto, Oswego and Scriba, along with the City of Oswego, we have worked to develop our own plans in order to facilitate local cooperation as well providing support to the overall project. We hope to be able develop a formal Inter-Municipal agreement with the members of this group. I will report more on this as it develops. An additional outcome of this is that the Towns of Minetto and Oswego are working together regarding a shared clerk. While this may not develop into a formal agreement, it is an indication of the increased level of cooperation in our area. Another item being discussed within the shared services group is the sharing of a code enforcement officer. The CEO who serves the Towns of Hannibal and Oswego is due to retire. The Town of Hannibal has an agreement with the Town of Granby to provide backup Code Enforcement duties. The Towns of Oswego and Hannibal have proposed to work with the CEO from the Village of Hannibal and have requested the attorneys work to develop an agreement among these municipalities and the Town of Granby. Again, as these details begin to come more fully together, I will be sharing this information. Alternatives to these plans are also being pursued, but anywhere we can develop formal shared services agreements and identify potential taxpayer savings or increased services, we are actively working to further this end.

The current labor agreement between the Town and the Teamsters Union representing our workers is due to expire at the end of 2017. We have been in contact with representatives of the Union and indicated our desire to begin formal negotiations. As part of the mandated shared services agreement process (CWSSI) local unions have been informed about the initiatives to share services. Additionally, the fiscal status of the Town has been shared. It is

hoped that these considerations can be accommodated, and that a workable agreement can be reached that benefits all concerned. In the process, we hope to do all we can to limit costs.

I have previously stated that the Town has submitted intents to apply for several grants or projects related to the development of sewers for the Towns commercial corridors. It is widely documented that commercial development is unlikely to occur in areas without adequate infrastructure. It is hoped that working to improve our infrastructure would lend to more development and would serve to broaden the tax base of the Town. However, it is also to be noted that this is not generally a town wide expense, and such expense should only be borne by those most likely to benefit. Given that, we are also pursuing other alternate sources of funds and are actively working with others in the area who are also looking to improve the local infrastructure. We will continue to report on these opportunities as they emerge, but are pleased to note that there are several initiatives currently being considered that would benefit the general area and the residents of our Town.

One final note is that the Town is continuing to work to repair the Rathburn Road Bridge that has been 'Red Flagged' by NYS DOT. The Town Supervisor and Town Highway Superintendent have met several times regarding these efforts and have also been in contact with other individuals or agencies in the process. This work is still being considered for this summer and we are working to be able to present a more detailed plan.