

November 14, 2017

Supervisor's report

One of the fun things I got to do recently was attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the new 'clubhouse' at Lakeside Commons. We were fortunate to have good weather that day. It was a pleasure also to welcome a number of dignitaries to our community, including a representative from NYS Senator Pattie Ritchie, Assemblyman Bob Oakes, Oswego Mayor Billy Barlow and a number of county legislators, including our own Terry Wilber. We all got tours of the amazing new facility, and everyone was very impressed with the facility.

This has been a strange year weather wise, as it has been very wet. There have been a number of incidents of flooding within the Town of Oswego and several other surrounding communities. These events have been trying for quite a few residents. Fortunately, the Town of Oswego is represented by a number of outstanding people. Special thanks go out to the town highway workers and to members of the Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department. Their hard work and dedication was instrumental in helping to eliminate many issues and resolve quite a number of problems.

I just received word today that the President has formally issued a disaster declaration as a result of some of the funding issues. The area designated includes much of Oswego County and parts of the Town of Oswego. This will help those who are seeking some relief from the damages. The Town will continue to make available to the public what information and assistance we can.

In addition to the flooding resulting from the high levels of Lake Ontario, there was a severe flooding event the end of October. That event resulted in five roads in the Town of Oswego being closed. The storm not only closed, and damaged a number of roads, but subsequent winds caused power outages and quite a few felled trees. Again, the Fire Dept. and highway crews have worked to restore conditions in an admirable fashion. One of the facilities damaged was the Ontario Heights pump station. We have worked hard to get the facility back on-line and operating as best we can. There are still items to be repaired, but work is in progress. So far, estimates for damage have exceeded \$15,000.00. We currently are working with our insurance carrier to recover from our losses.

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. I feel it is safe to say the meetings have been cordial and productive. 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. These are tough times fiscally for the Town of Oswego, and the employees, staff, administration and union all have worked to resolve many of the fiscal issues at hand.

I have mentioned in the past the fiscal condition of the Town. Escalating expenses and diminishing revenues make it difficult to meet budget projections or to produce meaningful budgets. There have been considerable efforts in the Town to reduce expenditures, and these efforts will continue. We also are examining many avenues for increasing revenues. The Town Board has been quite busy trying to

find ways to have a solid budget and to do what it can to limit tax increases. However, these efforts must also confront the realities of our financial conditions and the conditions within our political and economic environment. I feel the Town Board has been able to have open and honest review of all the conditions and variables and has come up with the best possible outcome given the hurdles that we face.