

October 10, 2017

Supervisor's report

For several months I mentioned a review by NYMIR (our insurance carrier) and the on-going audit from the NYS Comptroller's office, along with discussing some of the recommendations coming from them. This month we received official notification that the Town was in Fiscal Stress. Additionally, the auditor completed the field investigation portion of their audit. In response to the information provided during these reviews, the Town has been working hard to strengthen our internal policies and procedures and to continue grow this Town in a fiscally responsible manner. The proposed local law presented today and the new draft policy are in direct response to recommendations presented. The proposed sale of the long unused Town Gravel bed is also a result of their suggestions. We continue to work with these agencies to improve practices within the Town. As it was repeatedly pointed out, entering into a condition of Fiscal Stress is not something that happened in the period of one year, but is a result of trends and conditions over an extended period of time. The audit and the results of the Fiscal Stress monitoring examined in detail a period of three years in making the determination. It will take more than one fiscal year to resolve some of the issues, but this Board has already started the process.

Often, being fiscally responsible has to do with more than just maintaining a consistent and reasonable tax rate. To that effort, the Town has worked at cutting expenses and bringing in additional revenue. We will continue to work with officials and representatives of other local communities in efforts to address common issues and problems, including continued efforts to develop formal shared services agreements with our neighbors.

This month the Town Board will appoint a new Code Enforcement Officer. It has been a focus of this board to improve the Town through the use of fair, consistent, but diligent Code Enforcement efforts. This is just one step toward ensuring the goals of the community are being addressed and that our rules regarding planning and zoning are being enforced.