

March 13, 2018

Supervisor's report

On March 9, 2018 the Office of the NY State Comptroller released "Report of Examination – 2017M-290 Town of Oswego Financial Condition and Information Technology" (Audit report). The audit report has been sent for publication on the Town's website and will be available for viewing in the Oswego Town Hall by contacting the Town Clerk or the Supervisor's office.

The report was expected, and I have discussed many of the issues raised in the report in a number of previous reports, including the last two. The Town Board has actively been addressing the issues raised for well over a year now. In fact, many of the issues on tonight's agenda are a result of efforts to strengthen the financial oversight of the Town, to improve the financial conditions and to improve Town policies and procedures. The adoption of last years' budget followed many of the processes and recommendations outlined in the audit report. There is much more to be done, but the process of change has been in earnest. In early January of 2016, a new slate of elected officials began their service to the Town. This administration has worked, and will continue to work as a team, and in conjunction with an ever-active Town Board, towards revising and improving Town policies, finding ways to streamline operations, reducing costs and monitoring the revenue and expenditures.

By law, the Town Board has 90 days to submit a corrective action plan (CAP), but the groundwork for the plan has already been laid. This plan, as is the audit, is a public document and will be made available to the public. I encourage all residents to review the report and make suggestions for concrete improvements to your elected officials.

It should be noted that the issues highlighted within the audit report are not the only issues facing the Town of Oswego. As I have indicated in the past, the Town of Oswego is continuing to be an active participant in the Oswego County Shared Services Panel and will continue to explore ways to work jointly with other municipal officials in our area. The Town has also actively participated in the revision of the County's 'Hazard Mitigation Plan' and information regarding those efforts are available through the Supervisor's office.

Last spring brought with it several flooding events and, due to high levels of Lake Ontario, a declared disaster event. Town officials continue to monitor current weather and water related issues, including recent briefs on potential continued high lake levels. and to work with FEMA and emergency management personnel. The

Town has submitted for funding to recover some damages and to try to prevent future issues.

The Town has also sought other funding options, such as those available through the Governor's office, through Clean Energy initiatives and any other viable avenues. As mentioned in the past, our local state representative, Senator Pattie Richie, has been very helpful to the Town by providing several grants to the Town. All of this requires additional work and financial oversight on the part of your elected officials. It is pleasing to note that others are aware of the efforts these people have contributed and recognize the positive growth within the Town.