

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

JUNE 2020

Once again, I would like to thank our Murray residents for their cooperation during this difficult time. Your cooperation with our county & local government leadership has been greatly appreciated. As we progress forward, please continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines, it's working.

Your townhall is open for business with the walkup window working brilliantly at the clerk's office. The courts are open for limited cases. We began making the necessary interior improvements for the eventual re-opening of the town offices. The highway/water crew is functioning at full capacity while practicing social distancing protocol. For now, we will continue to hold virtual town hall meetings. We have purchased a new microphone system to better broadcast via zoom. Thank you for your patience while we adjust to the new norm and please provide feedback.

The Town Board appointed Louise Passarell interim Hwy. Superintendent and Dennis Mandigo interim Water Superintendent. Both have stepped into their additional roles with dedication to community and we greatly appreciate their commitment. A new Hwy. Superintendent will be elected in the November General Election and take office on January 1st 2021.

The Bonadio Audit of the Town financial statements is complete and the auditors will present their final report to the Board on July 20th. It is worth mentioning that the accrued compensated absence amount due an elected official was not permissible whereby reducing the Town's liability saving the taxpayers \$65,145.00

In February I mentioned that we would be providing a "proper accounting" of our water department. In April I reconciled the town wide consumption to the purchases of water for 2018,2019, and the 1st Qtr. of 2020. The results showed a 49, 44 & 50% ratio respectively of unbilled water. Consequently, the town board unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the hiring of Bonadio & Co. to extend their audit into the water department. We are working diligently on a solution.

The Comprehensive plan continues to meet every month making remarkable progress on shaping our future. Hopefully the State will be able to fund the Farm Land Protection grant applied for in the spring. If so the town of Murray will be the 1st Town in the County with such a plan.

On July 9th the Town Board will meet to evaluate the remainder of the 2020 budget and begin to work on the 2021 budget year. As you may be aware NYS is a financial wreck and it is we the rural counties and local farming communities that will suffer the consequences. Our revenue sources outside local property taxes are drying up fast due to the pandemic. We have no choice but to do more with less by reining in spending and making necessary and difficult cuts. Residents and municipal government must work together in mutual understanding that times have changed and we must all give a little to get a little.

On a really positive note.....I received a call from a gentleman who grew up here in the 1940's and has indicated his desire to help fund a restoration project of the Fancher Clock War Memorial. He is deeply attached to this area and the young men who are memorialized in the monument. Once things are finalized, we will make further announcements..... what a really great community project!! Anyone who wishes to join in please contact myself or our town clerk Cindy. We can use all the help we can muster.

In conclusion, we have been through a lot these past few months. Despite the challenges we face we are all working to better our community. Whether its fixing what's broken or planning for our future, Murray is on the move.

God Bless you all.

Joe Sidonio
Supervisor