

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

OCTOBER 2020

I'm proud to report that we have an impressive 2021 preliminary budget prepared for the Public Hearing on November 4th at 7PM. The budget reflects a \$82,500.00 decrease in taxes and is \$112,000.00 under the tax cap. In the uncertain days of Covid-19 it is quite an accomplishment to reduce taxes. I would like to thank the town board, department heads and staff for their contributions making this savings possible to taxpayers during this difficult time.

Since taking office I have worked very closely with our Accountant Bob Fox of EFPR Solutions. With a fiscally conservative, republican mindset, we worked diligently to find ways to create efficiency.

Water Department-

- We ended the over levy of water district debt. Your water tax now equals the infrastructure debt as it was intended. We included operations and maintenance in the cost of water insuring everyone pays their fair and proportionate share based on consumption.
- We are in the process of refinancing water department debt. Historic low interest rates provide opportunity to save \$514,000.00 over 27 years. This is a significant source of tax savings for 2021 and beyond.
- The highway & water crew located several leaks and repaired a recent break. We appreciate their continued efforts to reduce water loss.
- An independent review of the water billing and collections process will soon be performed to insure we have the most reliable data, complete accountability and sound internal controls for future performance.

The Town Board has agreed it's time to develop an employee handbook to better inform management and employees of personnel policies and procedures and contain escalating costs.

Community Projects-

The Fancher WWII Clock Memorial has been coming together nicely. Historian Danny Mawn has pulled together a viable plan for the main phases of renovation including re-pointing the stone, electrical, and clock work. Thank you for the countless hours, your interest, expertise and professionalism in pulling together this sensitive and significant project. Thank you to the Fiorito family for making this possible. We are poised to begin in the spring of 2021.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working hard and we are preparing a draft for public comment. Each member of the committee is working solely for the Community's best interest and without compensation. I am very proud of our committee for their contributions and selflessness. The Plan documents our vision with guidance for our future through land use goals and objectives. Thank you all for contributing so much. Bravo!

On the horizon we will be looking to improve our town website to be more informative and attractive to interested parties. We will be posting our local laws soon. Please be patient.

Please understand the Covid-19 virus is all around us and we are seeing an increase in confirmed cases. The Town Meetings have been very well attended bordering on social distancing over capacity. We may have to return to zoom meetings, stay tuned.

Sincerely

Joe Sidonio

Supervisor