

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

MAY 2020

Thank you Murray residents for your sacrifices while persevering through the Covid pandemic. Your patience has paid off evidenced by our Phase II status for re-opening. Please continue your diligence adhering to our County Health Department guidelines. It's working! We are working towards re-opening our Town Hall establishing guidelines for everyone's safety. The walkup window seems to be working well. I'll keep you posted as we progress and wish to thank all our Orleans County Officials for their guidance and protection.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee held a very productive forum on Murray's natural, historic and agricultural assets for recreation and tourism. <https://orleanshub.com/murray-sees-potential-with-400-camp-sites-tourism-and-ag-resources/> Great to see everyone working together to build our future. Next meeting is July 7th and information will be on the Town Website.

The Town Board adopted an "as needed" monthly schedule for work meetings in addition to the regular town board meetings. This month's work meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday at 7PM and all subsequent meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday at 7PM. Check the Town bulletin board and calendar for details.

We are beginning to work on our Town budget. I have invited the county Chief Financial Officer to render an opinion in light of the fiscal uncertainties on the horizon. I am concerned about the \$194,317.00 of accruing liability for retiring employees and officials that has never been budgeted for.

Upon review of water department operations for the 1st Qtr. of 2020, I must report an unacceptable level of unbilled water. The loss is contributing significantly to the financial deficit in the water department. Furthermore, our 3 Town lighting districts are operating in the red with nearly depleted fund balances. I am currently examining that situation.

Gordie, our longest serving Highway employee retired and the Highway/Water Superintendent resigned effective May 31st. Two new fulltime employees were hired by the Hwy. Superintendent prior to his departure. The Town Board will address the transition at the June work meeting. Anyone interested in the vacant Hwy. Superintendent Position please contact myself or the Town Clerk for details. No experience necessary, all are welcome to apply.

We are awaiting the results of our financial statement audit by the Bonadio Group.

In closing, we are all working hard through this pandemic and transitional time. Everything is under control. Be safe and please continue to adhere to the safety protocols established by the County Health Department so we can return to our way of life