

## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

FEBRUARY 2020

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to everyone for your professionalism and support in working together. We have a busy agenda full of important issues to complete in a very short timeframe.

We held a marathon 8 hr. work meeting on a Saturday to interview a slate of attorneys and discuss my agenda moving forward. Thankyou councilmen for hanging in there and laying the foundation to achieve great things in the months ahead.

The most pressing issue for the Town was hiring a competent attorney. The Town Board selected John Sansone Attorney for the Town. Mr. Sansone has vast municipal experience and is a vested taxpayer in Murray. He can both defend and prosecute most cases on behalf of the Town. Welcome aboard.

We successfully navigated the health insurance gamut. By switching providers, we saved thousands of dollars while maintaining the same level of coverage. All persons covered were afforded an opportunity to review the plans and agreed to switch. Thank you all for coming together. We will continue to annually review policies for best value.

While reviewing our Health Care policies we discovered the need to update our Town Personnel Policy. Thankfully we now have an attorney to help with that. It is at the top of the to do list.

The Comprehensive Plan review is underway. Labella engineering is leading the monthly meetings held at the town hall the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 5:30PM. The public is encouraged to attend, listen in or participate. It is so very important to hear from you in mapping out the future of Murray. Furthermore, we identified a State Ag and Markets grant to create a Farmland Protection Plan. With unanimous board approval I will write the grant, (with help), and obtain funding in July. This will complement the Comprehensive Plan and place Murray as the 1<sup>st</sup> Town in Orleans County to have an Ag plan. This will open the door to many opportunities for funding and programs to benefit not only our Farmers but also our Town. To be clear we are an agricultural community. The "Plan" legitimizes that fact.

The Bonadio Group will perform the annual Financial Statement Audit for 2019. Also, a proper accounting of the Murray Water Department will be performed. Water loss, operation and maintenance cost, bond payments and your water tax will be reconciled. When complete, we will be in a better financial management position.

Thanks to a program sponsored by our Sheriff we are now using SUPERVISED persons who must complete community service to perform our Town Hall Housekeeping duties. This is saving our taxpayers approximately \$5,000.00 annually. Thankyou Mike Mele for the suggestion and thank you to the Orleans County Sheriff's Office for all you do.

We relocated a framed flag into the meeting room. Our Town Historian Marsha DeFillips has identified it as the Orleans County Flag done at the time of the County bicentennial. Supervisor James Piedmont presented it to the Town. The County approved it early in 1975 and presented it during the bicentennial in 1976. Come see it.

In conclusion, we cannot continue operating the way we always have. What worked 30 years ago doesn't work today. What may have worked last year may not work this year. We must adapt to the ever-changing environment. We must be nimble on our feet and forward thinking. The Governor's budget indicates deficits and reduced funding for our County and therefore less for our Town. We must prepare to do more with less. We must all do our share.

Sincerely  
Joe Sidonio  
Supervisor