

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

By far the most significant development in February was the repeal by the Town Board of the 2021 health care reforms which had been worked on so hard last year. The projected savings and health care policy agreed to during the budgeting process were in exchange for across the board, expected pay raises. This reversal results in a 23.7% increase in health care costs from 2020. (Motion by Bower, Second by Hendel, Town Board Yes, Supervisor No).

In the Town of Murray our healthcare priorities are 2-fold:

- Our top priority is to provide the best health care for our employees and officials.
- Our next priority is to balance the best health care coverage with our ability to pay for it now and into the future.

This year one goal as Supervisor is to begin managing our health care fund now so we can continue to provide for the best future health care coverage. We have been and continue to provide generous health savings account contributions for our employees. In doing so, we are helping individuals to save for their long-term health care needs.

Our proposed plan was specifically designed by 2 separate health care consulting firms in conjunction with the Bonadio Audit recommendation:

"The biggest challenges facing the Town continue to be those related to health insurance premiums. The Town has asked those receiving health insurance to pay a percentage of their premium yet the overall cost continues to increase."

Nationally health insurance premiums are skyrocketing and can be debilitating to organizations and communities responsible for providing health insurance. Responsibly managing health care coverage in this environment is challenging and requires research, questioning and understanding by everyone.

Although a sensitive topic, I will continue to push for a sustainable top quality health policy for the future.

Thank you to our new Highway Superintendent and crew for seeing us through the recent snows. We appreciate your hard work.

We have reopened our Town Hall to public meetings with masking requirements and adherence to social distance guidelines. We welcome you to attend.

Joe Sidonio  
Supervisor