

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

JANUARY 2021

A look back at 2020 will show much more than tackling the Covid 19 Pandemic.

In January our Town was experiencing a 50% water loss ratio. After (3) Accounting audits/reviews, help from our Water Department and a more hands on management approach we reduced the loss to 20% by year end. Under the leadership of our new Water Superintendent Dirk Lammes we are working to further reduce this loss to a target of 10%. Ambitious yes, but we have set the bar high in an effort to operate the best run Water Department in the County.

Further investigation into the water department confirmed the over taxation of bond district debt to fund operation and maintenance. This unfair method has ended and now your water tax has been reduced to equal its associated district debt. Operation and maintenance costs are now funded through the sale of water. Water rates have been adjusted to \$4.99/1000 gallons. Under this approach everyone pays the same amount towards overhead. Operational costs are directly linked to the amount of water you use.

The water district debt was further reduced by refinancing water bond debt. By simply refinancing water debt Town water users saved an additional \$631,000.00 over 25 years in interest payments alone. We now have a tightly managed water department whos performance will be closely monitored going forward.

Reforming our Town personnel policy reduced long term liabilities for taxpayers by \$60,000.00 and reduced health care expense 15% while still providing excellent benefits to our employees.

Our Comprehensive Plan Committee met monthly committed to producing a detailed policy statement to guide us through the next 10 years. A very special thank you to the committee for volunteering for this underappreciated but critically important project for our community. Hopefully by summer we will have it completed.

We are working to create a new more attractive and informative Town Website. People and businesses are taking notice of our Town.

Thank you to the staff, department heads and board members for helping create a Town budget that reduced taxes 1.6% during the pandemic while maintaining Community Services.

To all residents and businesses who have suffered this past year due to the unforeseen pandemic, I am sorry this happened and I feel your pain. We must all stick together by neighbor helping neighbor and having confidence in your local government that we are doing everything we can to reduce the weight on your shoulders. As your Town Supervisor I am committed to Effective and Efficient Government in a Transparent and Accountable Manner. Call us anytime.

Sincerely,

Joe Sidonio
Supervisor