

5/29/14

Notes from the Hamilton Town Council

May 8th was a lovely spring evening, with just a couple of dedicated community members joining us in the office for the Hamilton Town Council meeting. Doc Hayes from Earlville told us about the Municipal Innovation Exchange summit he attended with Town Clerk Sue Reymers. Topics included information on shared services and concerns over the negative impacts of the governor's 2% tax cap on local municipalities. This tax cap has raised a red flag in towns, villages, and counties across the state with concerns that municipalities will be financially unable to provide much needed basic services to their communities if they stay within the tax cap.

Mayor Miller updated us on the progress of the Village gas lines currently being installed with a goal of reaching the three main customers, Colgate, Hamilton Central School and Colgate University, by September. The Village has been meeting with developer Randy Rutenberg to discuss new student and senior housing project possibilities.

Our Town highway crew continues its work maintaining town roads while providing valuable assistance to other municipalities. The crew is helping to mill roads and preparing the site for the replacement garage in the Village of Hamilton.

This year Hamilton was the testing ground for a new method of collecting taxes through Madison County rather than here in the Town office. Working with the county Town Clerk Sue Reymers was able to save time and money for our Town. The project worked so well that it is now being considered for use by other towns.

Councilor Darby has been meeting with the Partnership for Community Development (PCD) to continue their research on senior housing possibilities for Hamilton. The group toured senior housing in Clinton and reviewed other successful senior living communities. As a college town Hamilton is highly desirable for retirees, and would provide a great opportunity for such development.

Joint shared services was discussed on many levels. Supervisor Shwartz reported on a meeting of the southern Madison County Supervisors where potential savings through joint purchase of fuel oil was considered. Here in Hamilton the Town and the Village are exploring the possibility of combining building space to create better efficiencies and save money. As the Town continues to streamline operations, be more efficient, and work with other local governments and institutions, we see more savings for our community.

The Hamilton Town Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Town of Hamilton office in the Village of Hamilton at 7pm. Our next regular meeting is Thursday, June 12. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

submitted by Chris Rossi for Hamilton Town Council