

## **Notes From the Hamilton Town Council - October 11, 2012 meeting**

Our October 11 Hamilton Town Council meeting opened with news from Shannon Montaro from the Partnership for Community Development (PCD.) The PCD is a unique non profit organization created as a collaborative effort of the Village and Town of Hamilton and Colgate University. All three entities provide financial support to the PCD, whose mission is to enhance community vitality and economic opportunity in and around Hamilton. Shannon reported that this year the PCD will offer specialized training and micro grants for local businesses, with a particular focus on agricultural businesses. In addition to sponsoring community events such as the Chocolate Wreck Festival the PCD also provides grant writing assistance to the Town and Village governments.

Our Highway Superintendent reported on the work done by our team at the Town Garage. Beyond the usual tasks of ditching, mowing, trimming and replacing road signs, preparations are being made for winter by securing fuel oil bids. Our efforts towards saving costs at the town garage continue with the Town Council authorizing the installation of a 15.75 kw solar system that will cover 100% of the energy needs of the town garage. The contract for the \$39,375 project will be overseen by Arista Power as part of the county wide "[Solarize Madison](#)" project. This project will save the taxpayers approximately \$2,000 per year in lowered energy costs with a payback of 12- 13 years.

The Town Council continues to explore ways to save money by sharing services with the Villages of Hamilton and Earlville by refining how we replace our highway equipment. The goal is to lower the cost of doing Town business and reduce the cost passed along to our community.

Energy concerns were also discussed. The Town Council agreed to move forward with our Energy Working Group's (EWG) recommendations on Road Use laws. The EWG will arrange for a meeting with Delta engineering to learn more about their road protection programs. We will invite other local municipalities to join the meeting in hopes of keeping costs down through sharing services.

Work continues on our 2013 budget with public workshops held on October 4 and 23. The public hearing on our preliminary budget takes place on November 1 in the Hamilton Town Office at 7pm. Once again we invite community members, and anyone who might be interested in running for the town council in the future, to join us.

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, November 8. The Town Budget Hearing is Thursday November 1 at 7pm. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

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Submitted by  
Chris Rossi, Hamilton Town Council