

Notes from the October Hamilton Town Council Meeting

A public hearing was held on proposed Law 3-2018 "Tax Cap Override". With a continued increase in costs of doing business the Town Council voted to override the 2% tax cap.

Highway Superintendent Florenz reported that Right to Farm laws have been posted on Town Roads, while the County will erect the remainder on the County Roads. 30 mph signs were posted on stretches of Preston Hill Road to address road safety concerns. A request was made to extend the reduced speed limit. The Town Council is reviewing the effectiveness of the recent change to see if other changes are warranted. Drivers are reminded to moderate their speed on all Town roads to protect the safety of our residents, their children and pets.

The Town Council resolved that the following seasonal roads in the Town of Hamilton will be closed from December 1, 2018 - April 1, 2019: Alderman Road, Barnard Road, Brown Road, Collins Road, Humphrey Road, Lake Road, a portion of Morse Road, Thayer Road, and Wilkinson Road. As in past years, these roads are not maintained in the winter. The garage is getting set-up for the use of brine for the winter, with tanks for onsite and on the trucks.

The Planning Board met on October 9 and issued a special use permit for a small dog kennel on Chapel Road and reviewed a subdivision for property on Poolville/Cranston Road. Meetings for the next 6 months are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month. October is the month to file to join an agricultural district. Contact Madison County Planning Department for an application.

Town Office Building Committee met to refine building plans and draft a budget to share with residents. The proposed figure of \$1,150,00 is meant as a not to exceed figure for the entire project, including all work that will be done by contractors and by the Town Crew. There is potential for savings as the project moves forward and the Town is looking for construction alternates and grant money to achieve those savings. The Town Council invites residents to learn about and discuss the project on Tuesday, October 23 at 7pm at the Poolville Community Center.

The Small Business development council, in conjunction with the Partnership for Community Development (PCD), is offering consultations for local businesses. The PCD is also working with Thought Into Action to make that incubator space on Utica Street available to local entrepreneurs. The conversation about housing in Hamilton continues as the Town Council and the PCD looks for town-wide opportunities to implement recommendations from the recently completed housing strategy.

Mary Dinski, Recreation and Youth Committee, is attending the Hamilton Coalition meetings. She also attended a presentation on marijuana legalization and learned of the need for tight controls to avoid potential negative impacts on the health and safety of residents of all ages.

The Zoning Update Committee will be considering density of development at their next meeting as well as updates to the subdivision law. Planner Nan Stolzenberg has been working with the Town Office staff to edit the current zoning law to address missing items and make the entire document easier to understand and implement.

Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group (HCPWG) is working towards the goal of obtaining bronze certification for both the Town and the Village by the summer of 2019. Colgate students are providing research for the group as they finish up greenhouse gas inventories and the committee turns their attention to assessing what aspects of our community are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The Town Council resolved to move the 2019 budget from Tentative to Preliminary. A Public Hearing on the Preliminary budget is scheduled for the next Town Council meeting on November 8, 6:30 pm, at the Hamilton Library.

The County has passed an updated Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy, which can be used by other local municipalities. The Town will review and consider the policy for acceptance at the next meeting.

Supervisor Shwartz reported that the County has proposed hiring armed resource officers for our schools. These resource officers would be retired law enforcement personnel that would work with at risk students. Town Council members expressed the need for the option of hiring a mental health professional in addition to or rather than the proposed resource officers. The topic is still under discussion and Councilor Dinski is researching alternatives. A new fire training and operations center for the County is being built in the Town of Lincoln, and will be available for use by all municipalities. The Madison County Planning Department won a grant for 1.5 million dollars from the Canal Corporation to create mixed use housing along the Canal in Canastota. The County passed a truth in labeling resolution defining milk as only being produced by an animal.

Our next Regular Monthly Board Meeting, with a public hearing on the Preliminary 2019 Budget, is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2018 @ 6:30 pm, in the Hamilton Library Community Room. In December we will meet on Thursday December 13th at the Village Court House. We invite and encourage you to attend.

Submitted by Chris Rossi, Hamilton Town Council