

## Notes from Hamilton Town Council January 2019 meeting

The first Town meeting of the new year is a reorganization meeting. Staffing and appointments for 2019 were made. Here are some of the appointments, with a full list on the Town website:

- Year-long appointments include Historian- Jack Loop, Dog Control Officer – Gordon Baker, Code Enforcement Officer- Mark Miller, Deputy Town Clerk/Collector/Registrar of Vital Statistics – Elisa Robertson.
- 2-Year Appointments are intentionally staggered, so the appointments are not related to elections, and thus are not politicized. They include Jason Florenz - Highway Superintendent, Sue Reymers - Town Clerk/Collector, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Records Management Officer, Records Access Officer.

The proposed Flood Damage Prevention Regulation was introduced by Harvey Kliman from the Zoning Update Committee, who provided information on the updated law. The changes bring our old law into compliance with state and federal regulations. The law requires that building in floodplains meet criteria that protect the community from flood damage. The new law is easier to understand and implement. A Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law #1 of 2019 “Flood Damage Prevention” was held. The Law was adopted by the Town Council by resolution.

Town Justice Haight gave his Annual Report for 2018, with a workload of 179 cases for the year and a total revenue received by the Town of \$6,969. Cases represent all types of Criminal, Civil, Vehicle and Traffic Violations, and misdemeanors. Haight provided news on changes in the County justice system and how arraignments may be handled in the future. Thanks to Justice Haight who is starting his 10th year of service to our Town.

Highway Superintendent Florenz was not present at the meeting as the crew was busy plowing, but he submitted a report on Highway activities. Between December 31, 2018 and January 10, 2019, the crew made 31 plowing runs. Brine tanks are now installed on 3 trucks. The use of brine is making a real difference in improving winter road conditions while saving on costs. Preparation is underway for the installation of a geothermal system at the highway garage, made possible with Clean Energy Community grant money. After well testing it was determined that we can install a larger system which will save even more energy costs.

Bookkeeper Wilcox reported that the Town has received \$17,566 from the County for plowing from 10/18 - 11/23/2018. A draft of the Town’s 2018 AUD will be ready for review in February.

Town Clerk Reymers is working on changing standard fixtures in our Hubbardsville and Poolville lighting districts to LEDs as part of the NYSEG LED conversion program. Changing to LED lights will cost \$1,828 but will pay for itself in significant savings to taxpayers in the lighting districts. Making the change will also save energy as recommended by our Comprehensive Plan and satisfy points for the Climate Smart Community program.

Over the past 4 years the Partnership for Community Development (PCD) has secured \$1,166,000 in grants, which have resulted in 36 new local jobs. The PCD recently received an additional \$625,000 grant to assist with an entrepreneurship program co-sponsored with Thought into Action to create a NY State certified business incubator, right here in Hamilton! These business opportunities have been a boon to the Hamilton community and the downtown area. On January 22 at 6 pm the PCD and the Hamilton Rotary will host a housing forum at the Colgate Inn. Local government and stakeholders will present on the PCD's study and potential solutions to local housing problems.

The Town, as part of the Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group (HCPWG), finished a climate and emergency resiliency assessment. Next steps are to complete a vulnerability assessment with Colgate ENST students. Both of these studies will help the Town assess its emergency preparedness in the face of weather events and how we can better serve our community. HCPWG is planning community outreach and educational forums, with the first presentation sponsored by the PCD on March 5 at 6 pm at the Colgate Inn.

Complaints about Frontier's service in Hamilton and Lebanon continued through the end of 2018, despite broadband buildout in Lebanon and state grants to cover the new service. Supervisors Shwartz and Goldstein have been actively seeking help from the NYS Public Service Commission and the NYS Broadband Office. The Town of Hamilton will make the contact information for Frontier phone service and system reliability available so local users can register complaints. Please let the Town know if you have complained to Frontier so the Town can advocate on customers' behalf.

Supervisor Shwartz reported that Madison County entered into a 10-year agreement with Enterprise Rentals, saving over \$1.5 million in vehicle costs. The County is building a new highway garage with the Town of Eaton, close to Rte. 20, to serve the southern Madison County.

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