

**Town of Hamilton, Madison County, NY**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**March 27, 2020**

**Open Letter to Town of Hamilton Residents from**  
**Eve Ann Shwartz, Town of Hamilton Supervisor:**

In this extraordinary time of personal and community stress I want all Town of Hamilton residents to know that your local government is focused on protecting our community and planning for the future when the COVID-19 health crisis will be a memory.

Today we join you in mourning the loss of the Hamilton resident who died as a result of COVID-19. We share the anxiety that we all feel for those in our community who have tested positive, those who are ill, those in quarantine, and those who are waiting for test results. We worry, as all of you do, for the elderly who have been told to self-isolate, for those who have suddenly become unemployed, and for the many small businesses in our community whose sales have shriveled to a trickle or come to a full stop.

Our Town has worked closely with the Madison County Departments of Health and Emergency Management to make sure that our employees are either safely working from home (Town Clerk, Codes Enforcement, and Assessor) or working safely as needed for emergency snow removal and road repairs (Town Highway). All employees and elected officials are following the critical principles of frequent hand washing, disinfection of common workspaces and vehicles, and practicing social distancing by conducting virtual Town Board and committee meetings as needed. Check the Town website to follow our upcoming virtual meetings (<https://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>).

At significant cost savings, our Town Highway Department has taken over repairs and maintenance of all emergency vehicles belonging to Southern Madison Ambulance Corps (SOMAC). The Town is supporting SOMAC's efforts to recruit new volunteer ambulance drivers to ensure that this vital service is well staffed and ready to respond to any increased emergency needs caused by COVID-19. We are grateful to the more than 30 individuals who have already responded to our call for drivers, and we encourage others to follow their lead.

In compliance with NYS emergency orders, we have adjusted the pace of construction on the Town Office Building while still moving forward. The Town Board is monitoring the financial impact of COVID-19 on projected sales tax and casino gambling revenue, and we are prepared to adjust expenditures proportionate to revenue should the need arise later this year and next.

**We are all in this together.** Now more than ever we must remember that personal and social responsibility is the only way we are going to “flatten the COVID curve.” Each individual, each family, each business, each government department can play an important role by following the guidelines laid down by the State and County Health Departments (<https://www.health.ny.gov/> and <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/206/Health-Department> ).

Hamilton is a close-knit community and we know how to work together to solve problems and support one another. I pledge my personal commitment to work with all of you to bring “our Hamilton” safely through this time of crisis.

For questions or to share information please contact me at [ea.shwartz@townofhamiltonny.org](mailto:ea.shwartz@townofhamiltonny.org) or leaving a message at the Town office: 315-824-3380.