

SUPERVISOR APRIL REPORT 2020

Greenwich 2020 Budget: Efforts to stop the spread COVID-19 virus is going to impact the revenues for the current budget. Washington County predicts a shortfall of sales tax revenues in the range of \$600,000 to \$1.2 million depending on the duration of the pandemic. Also, some local revenues were overestimated in the budget: e.g. Court fees were estimated to be \$20,000 with changes in bail reform and less activity due to COVID-19 expected revenues will be about \$12,500. The NYS budget has a caveat that for every \$1 billion dollars in lost revenue aid programs will be reduced by 1%. I estimate the total shortfall for the 2020 budget to be in the neighborhood of \$35,500. See the attached 2020 budget projections.

Greenwich 2021 Budget: The 2021 budget projection is based on assuming a moderate 2% salary increase, and minimum wage required adjustments; 5% increase in health benefits; 9.4% NYS pension contribution [per Comptroller's prediction for 2021]. *The unknown factor is the increase in the NYS pension fund due to stock market losses due to COVID-19. Comptroller estimates range from 5% to 30%.* The unexpended fund balance of \$120,000 [from 2019] was applied to the 2020 budget. The unexpended fund balance from the 2020 budget for 2021 will be significantly less due to decreased revenues. One BAN [of \$9995] will be paid off in 2020 helping to decrease 2021 expenses. The potential shortfall in revenues for in 2021 and personnel expenses could be in the area of \$131,994. *There is some discussion to delay the minimum wage increases and keeping the 2021 rate at \$11.80.*

Potential Budget Impact: The 2021 budget will be impacted by decreased revenue from outside sources such as, sale and mortgage taxes along with cuts in New York State programs. In order to limit property tax increases discretionary spending will have to be curtailed to balance the budget.

COVID-19 Essential Services and Scheduling: Although the Town Hall is closed to the public essential work is being done. Town Clerk Kimberly Whelan and I are in the office from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Kim has completed the 2019 tax collections rolls and turned the roll over the Washington County. Supervisor's Clerk Joanna Messina is processing vouchers and employee payroll. Joanna is tracking expenses for possible reimbursement with the pandemic ends. Stan Mattison has the highway workers on split shifts. The highway staff is split into two groups rotating two days on two days off. Social distancing is being observed and sanitizing of equipment is being done frequently. All employees are being compensated when not working due to COVID-19 related issues. Town Court Clerk Barbara Perkins is processing essential court papers on a weekly basis.

Youth Summer Camp Program: We are planning on getting the applications out to the public via website and communication through Greenwich Schools. Applications will be mailed back to the Town Hall without payment. The goal is to get the process started and to be able to ramp up as quickly as possible when normalcy returns. Dates are unknown currently. The County advised that [they] are still planning on conducting lifeguard training.

Senior Flyer: In conjunction with the Village, a flyer was mailed to Seniors with contact telephone numbers to assist seniors. See attachment.

Personnel Administration: I'm working on updating the employee handbook and position descriptions. It's important that our current policies are updated, and position descriptions are reflective of the duties being performed. Also, a performance evaluation policy and procedures are being updated.

Washington County: County services are severely curtailed with only essential services being provided. I attend several COVID-19 briefings every week. Washington County Public Safety and Public Health Departments are working every day to keep our residents safe. Every day the Washington County COVID website provides up to date information. Public Health advises that, if you had contact with a diagnosed corona patient you will be personally contacted. It is County policy not to release locations of COVID positive patients. Social distancing, frequent hand washing, and assume everyone may have the COVID virus.

Happy Trails Upon Retirement: Kelli Blake's last day was 3/31/2020. After 17 years of service to Town of Greenwich Kelli has retired and we wish Kelli a "Carefree" and enjoyable retirement. Because of COVID-19 we could not give Kelli the sendoff we planned. We plan on giving Kelli a proper "Thank You" when things return to normal. THANK YOU, KELLI, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO GREENWICH!

On the same day Town Judge Bill Blake retired. Bill served the community as a respected and fair-minded arbiter of Justice. Bill received a grant to modernize the court room and an elevator for handicap access to the court room. Bill's vision and hard work helped to make our Court one of the best Town courts in Washington County. THANK YOU, BILL, FOR DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM.

Stepping Up to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Americans step up to a challenge. It's in our DNA. We volunteer to help our neighbors... we help people we don't know very well... we help people we don't know at all. We meet the challenges we face head on. It's what Americans do! And now we must step up and face another great challenge: The Coronavirus Pandemic.

Our doctors, nurses... all of our healthcare workers and officials... are stepping up to keep us safe from COVID-19.

Our first responders... police, Fire and Emergency services... are stepping up to protect our lives and property.

Our Town and Village Highway workers are stepping up to make sure our roads are safe, and our water and sewer treatment operations continue.

The workers at Hannaford are stepping up to keep the supermarket shelves stocked so we can continue to shop for our needs.

Our local businesses are stepping up to provide the services and products we need... everything from emergency home repairs to takeout meals.

Individual citizens and our community organizations are stepping up to assist seniors, to make protective masks for first responders, to do whatever is necessary in this time of crisis.

Rainbow placards are popping up on homes to remind us that there is hope and that this too shall pass. We even had a real live fake Dragon step up this weekend to put a smile on our faces.

As a community, we must all step up:

- Follow health officials' recommendations to "STOP THE SPREAD"
- Show respect for each other
- Be courteous, patient... and smile
- DO NOT OVER BUY

And with clear eyes and full hearts, Greenwich will prevail.

May God protect our citizens and our Great Town of Greenwich!

Don Ward Supervisor

THE CORONA VIRUS AND THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

True, the Corona virus is upon us, but it is not a time to panic. Step back, take a deep breath and count to 10, for we have faced many difficult challenges throughout our history and have always overcome them. And we shall overcome this challenge!

And we will do it as a country and a community. Not with fear but with “commonsense” and American GRIT! Kindness, Grace, Generosity and Civility... basic to our American character... will win the day and carry us through our current difficulties. We will come out on the other side of this challenge stronger and smarter.

Here's a few things you can do:

- First, don't over react
- Help the most vulnerable
- Calm the fears of our younger citizens and explain to them how we've been through challenges like this many times
- Be patient with others
- Follow the recommendations of medical experts to protect your family and community from the further spread of the virus
- Stay informed and ask questions for ignorance is our enemy.

Working together we will come through these difficult times and return to our normal routines of daily life and have stories of the Corona virus to tell future generations.

May God bless and protect our citizens and our Great Town of Greenwich!

Don Ward
Supervisor

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF GREENWICH
ARE HERE TO HELP.

- ◆ Live in the Town of Greenwich and know a senior citizen who may need to be checked on?

Call Town Supervisor Don Ward 518-788-0472,

donald.ward@greenwichny.org

The Town Highway Department will conduct safety checks on seniors during their normal work day.

- ◆ Live in the Village and need help to grocery shop or get to medical places?

Call Mayor Pam Fuller, 518-321-4395 or

Call The Village Clerk, 518-692-2755 or

Call the Village DPW, 518-692-7909.

The Village DPW will assist in transportation needs for seniors.

- ◆ Live in the Village or Town and need help with shopping or other necessities?

Contact the Lions Club: call Sara Idleman, 518-727-1269,

sidleman47@gmail.com

- ◆ Need the food pantry?

Call Comfort Foods 518-692-3082,

info@comfortfoodcommunity.org