

Supervisors October Report 2020

Greenwich Budget 2021: Our stated objective is keeping the 2021 budget tax levy the same as 2020. A zero-increase budget. The budgetary problems for both government of families caused by COVID 19 is having a substantial economic impact on prioritizing our spending. Government has things [it] must do and that must be our first priority. Such as, public safety, plowing and fixing our roads and providing required services. Secondly, government has budgetary expenditures for things we would like to do. This is where the hard choices happen - in discretionary spending; For example: We are in dire need of new truck for snow plowing. In order to purchase necessary piece of equipment, without increasing the tax burden, discretionary spending had to be trimmed. Thus, keeping the tax rate flat for 2021 property taxes.

Tax Map ID 198.20-1-32 Cossayuna: The house has been removed from the property. Several legal issues remain to be resolved and the hearing in Washington County Supreme Court is scheduled for October 15, 2020.

Battenkill Park: The new playground equipment has been installed. This will be a great addition to the Park. The remaining older equipment will be painted in the spring with matching colors.

Town Justice: Leo Flynn has completed his mandatory classes and officially starts his duties on October 5, 2020.

Washington County: The 2021 budget process has started, and it has been a challenging budget year for the County. The uncertainty of NYS funding and increasing NYS mandates makes for a turbulent budget process. The Department Heads have been diligent in trimming their budgets and still maintaining a high level of essential services for the public.

Town Office Space: Currently discussing lease requirements with BHSN. If BHSN elects to move forward with leasing the 3 offices, the Attorney for the Town will be asked to finalize the lease.

Planning Board: I would like to thank Chairman Bill Tompkins and the Board members for a commendable job conducting meetings in the best traditions of parliamentary procedure. The hearings were emotion [at times] for all parties. The Board's duty is to apply the procedures and standards contained in the Town's Zoning Law. Planning Board members devoted countless hours to the issue both at meetings and on their own time, investigating the issues involved. For that alone they should be applauded and respected. Planning Board members are volunteers and have come forward to serve the community. They have executed their duties according to law and Common-Sense judgement in the decision-making process. The Town Board would like to express our "Thanks" for your service the community.

Constituency Contact Information: In September, The Town Office had In-person contacts **413**; Phone contacts **511**; Emails **745** = **1669** Contacts

Commercial Lighting Districts: I have made numerous contacts with National Grid regarding the installation of the lights. National Grid's response has been slow and [NG] has not given a firm date.

Greenwich Employee Salary Increases vs Social Security: Reviewing Town records from 2015 to 2020 employee salary increases are:

2015 3% 2016 2% 2017 3% 2018 3% 2019 3% 2020 4% **Average Increase = 3% per year**

Social Security average increases from 2015 to 2020 is **1.6%**.