

## Supervisors December Report 2020

**Greenwich Budget 2020/2021:** As the end of the 2020 budget year approaches revenues are stabilizing but many budget lines are still less than projected revenues. We are reviewing several areas for potential savings. Currently, TOG relies on NYS contract prices for many of our items. Can TOG through the bid process find costs that are less than the NYS contract prices? Through the bidding process TOG will be able to compare price and value for potential savings. The 2021 TOG budget lower tax rates for Village and Town taxpayers:

Village Taxpayer 2020 Tax Rate 0.94    2021 Tax Rate 0.91

Town Taxpayer 2020 Tax Rate 2.75    2021 Tax Rate 2.73

**Commercial Lighting District:** National Grid has installed LED lighting along NYS Route 29. Special thank you to George Perkins and Bob Jeffords for their hard work to create the Commercial Lighting District.

**Hunting/Fishing Tags:** Town Clerk Kim Whelan provided the following data from July to November 2020 sales: 281 Hunting and 111 Fishing individuals purchased 3,290 total products.

Total Sales: \$17,793.00 TOG Commission on sales \$894.45: NYS keeps \$16,898.55 [95%]. TOG commission sales barely cover our administrative costs to process the sale. But this is a great convenience and service to the residents.

**Greenwich School House:** TOG received a letter from the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation that the School House property listed on the NYS Register of Historic Places is being nominated by NYS to the National Register of Historic Places in Washington DC.

**Greenwich Native Hal Ketchum:** Greenwich Native, country singer Hal Ketchum died at age 67. Hal was a popular performer in the area. Hal was known for his soulful ballads. Hal's debut single "Small Time Saturday Night" charted at number 2 on billboards Country Songs chart. As his wife Andrea posted on Facebook, "May his music live on forever in your hearts and bring you peace."

**Landfill Monitoring:** CT Male conducted a monitoring of TOG landfill and will file the report with NYS. CT Male advised that there are no issues regarding the monitoring of the landfill. They added that NYS requires the monitoring of landfills for 30 years. After 30 years monitoring may not be required but NYS would make that determination.

**Constituency Contact Information:** In November, The Town Office has In-person contacts 290; Phone contacts 415; Emails 694 = 1399

**Battenkill Park:** Because of the good weather and usage of the new playground, TOG will keep the park open as long as weather permits.

**ReneSola Power:** RSP has contacted TOG regarding a planned community solar project on Route 40 behind the Sunshine Inn. RSP inquired about TOG pilot law. TOG will hear more from RSP plans for community solar in the near future.

**Washington County:** Board of Supervisors adapted its budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which cuts overall spending and slightly increases the tax levy in order to fill a budget gap created by the reduction in NYS aid.

Total county spending: \$102.5 million [down from \$108.4 million]

Tax levy: \$34,827,330 [increase of 1.66% or \$567,180]

Tax Rate: \$6.88 per \$1,000 of assessed property value [ 1-cent increase]

Fund balance utilization: \$1 million.

In the 2021 budget, \$76.98 of every \$100 of taxes levied by the county will be used to fund State and Federally mandated programs. This leaves only \$23.02 of each \$100 to provide critical services to County residents.

Town	Total # of Parcels as of December 2020	Cost at \$50.54/parcel	Cost at \$3.3008/parcel	Projected Savings
Dresden	969	48,973	3,198	45,775
Easton	1,430	72,272	4,720	67,552
Fort Edward	2,881	145,606	9,511	136,095
Jackson	1,597	80,712	5,271	75,441
Salem	1,774	89,658	5,856	83,802
White Creek	1,843	93,145	6,083	87,062
<b>TOTAL</b>	10,494	530,367	34,639	495,728

**Revaluation Shared Services:** The above chart shows the 6 towns for revaluation being conducted by the County. The project will bring the Towns to 100% property assessment. The project is expected to be completed in 2021.

**Road Paving Shared Services:**

The exact nature of cooperation and Shared Services will be highly dependent upon individual projects undertaken by the County and the various towns and villages in close proximity to those projects. Because of this, it is difficult to estimate the exact savings that can be realized.

Two illustrative examples are outlined below:

1) When the County is paving a County Road in a particular town, the County will coordinate with the local Highway Superintendent to see if the town or village needs paving immediately adjacent to the project zone of the County’s planned work. If the town or village has need to pave a road which intersects with the planned County project, the County will deploy its paver and paving crew to undertake that paving and the town or village will help the County in the form of trucks to haul materials and any additional manpower needed. This will decrease County costs for trucking and eliminate the mobilization fee charged by paving contractors to the local municipalities. Depending on the needs of

local municipalities adjacent to planned County projects, the savings to both the County and local municipalities could be significant.

2) The County does not currently own a functioning grader. The County is planning to undertake 7.5 miles of Full Depth Reclamation (FDR). The FDR process requires the milled pavement and base to be graded prior to the application of the first course of asphalt. In the past, the County has included these grading services in the bid for FDR. Every town in Washington County owns and operates a grader for the maintenance of their dirt and gravel roads. The County will partner with the towns in which their FDR projects are occurring and have the town provide grading services.

**Everlasting Lights:** The program was founded by former Town Clerk Elaine Kelly two decades ago. This year Judy Patrick and Jen Sharp are taking on organizational responsibilities for Ever Lasting Lights. A special thanks to all the volunteers and the Town Highway crew for installing the trees and lights. This is a great example of Community and Town collaboration, which makes Greenwich a special place to live.

May God bless our citizens during this Christmas season and our great Town of Greenwich.