

Supervisors March Report 2021

COVID-19: Washington County has had several vaccine PODS. All the PODS have operated efficiently and there have been no issues. The vaccine allocation is controlled by NYS. Washington County gets the distribution from NYS. NYS dictates the categories of people that can receive the vaccine. Washington County officials are working with NYS to increase the vaccine allocation for our residents. We anticipate an increase in the allotment in the next few weeks. In the near future Washington County officials would like to expand the vaccine PODS to other Towns in Washington County to reach more people and decrease the travel to PODS.

WASHINGTON CO LAUNCHES VACCINE INTEREST REGISTRY

With this weekend's 65 & Older Vaccine Distribution Event we were able to complete the outstanding members of our county "stand-by" list for vaccine events! With the expansion and addition of eligible groups, Washington County is launching our new "Vaccine Interest Registry" which will allow county residents in any of the current eligibility groups to submit their information to receive information and updates related to vaccine distribution events they may be eligible for!

The form is quick and easy to complete and is available on our website here:

bit.ly/WashCoNYVaxInterest

Greenwich Budget 2021: A recent conference call with NYS DOT revealed a cost overrun for the Ferguson and Christie Roads culvert projects. Below is the summary, I sent to Representatives Dan Stec and Carrie Woerner concerning the cost overrides and the negative impact on the TOG budget and future paving plans. We are working with DOT to review the cost overrides to mitigate some of the costs. But at this time the cost overruns that Town is Greenwich is responsible for is \$341,931.17. I will do a more detailed power point during the Board meeting.

Summary

March 1, 2021

On November 9, 2018, the Town of Greenwich [TOG] was awarded funding for two projects from Bridge NY funds.

Ferguson Road Over Whittaker Brook PIN 1761.28 \$709,290.00.

Christie Road Over Whittaker Brook PIN 1761.29 \$993,640.

On 2/24/2021, I had a conference call with Kelley I. Kircher, DOT project manager. Kircher advised that both projects have costs that override the initial funding allocation. The cost override for both projects is **\$341,931.17**. Ferguson project **\$291,177.34** and Christie project **\$50,753.83**. See attachment.

I advised Kircher that the cost override is approximately 1/6th of our Town budget and TOG would have to pull out of the project. Kircher advised the TOG is responsible for the design costs of **\$244,772.23**.

Kircher advised the TOG signed a contract with DOT and TOG would be responsible for project costs that exceed the amount of the NY Bridge funding awarded to TOG.

On April 10, 2019, TOG passed a resolution agreeing to the terms of the contract for the Ferguson Road project. On April 24, 2019 passed a similar resolution for the Christie Road project. See attachment.

There is no question that the prior Supervisor and Town Board agreed to the terms of the project.

The only notification of the cost override was during the conference call on February 24, 2021. DOT should have known that the project was going significantly over budget and advised the TOG as the project moved forward. During the design and build phase of the project someone had to be aware of the cost problems. For DOT to expect a small town to pay for project cost overrides of this size escapes reality.

DOT needs to be more transparent as the project moves forward regarding costs. It makes no sense to have an agreement with an open-ended cost. Also, the costs of this project are not fully vetted. The numbers provided by DOT are only estimates, thus the final price could increase beyond the current projections.

Where does this leave TOG? TOG has several options, all of which impact our budget and road paving program. TOG best option at this time is to use all allocated CHIPS funding and \$80,000 from the Town budget allocated for road paving. Unfortunately, no roads will be paved in Greenwich this year. See attachment. Another option is for DOT to cover the cost overrides or simply cap the excessive costs at the current level. The projects are scheduled to be completed within 30 months. What will be the cost override projections during the 30-month period?

DOT must develop a better procedure to keep Municipalities advised of cost overrides and have a monetary or percentage caps on projects. Towns should have an opt out option built into the process with projected costs exceed a pre-determined amount. In my previous career, I learned that an opened ended cost agreement for a construction project is a foolish way to do business.

Don Ward
Town of Greenwich Supervisor

Constituency Contact Information: In February, The Town Office had In-person contacts **244**; Phone contacts **505**; Emails **789 = 1538 Contacts**

Total for 2021: In-person contacts **1011** Phone contacts: **1122** Emails **1651. Total 3784**

Youth Summer Camp: The committee had an organizational meeting in March. Items discussed: Dates of operation, staffing, swimming program, coordination with Food for Kids, field trips and general activities.

Dog Park: The committee met to discuss the structure of the committee, press release, general dog park structure, budget, and future maintenance requirements. The village is working on a proposed dog park. Because many of the initial issues are similar, forming one committee between the Town and Village was proposed.

Washington County: The Executive Order 203 Police Reform Plan was passed by the Board of Supervisors on February 19, 2021. Sheriff Murphy had 5 sessions with stake holders and conducted a county wide survey. Sheriff Murphy is establishing an Office of Professional Responsibility to manage misconduct and training to ensure that the EO 203 plan is implemented as designed by Sheriff Murphy and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 46 on February 19, 2021 to conduct a Washington County Broadband Inventory Analysis. In order to increase access, it is necessary to know where deficiencies exist as well as where efficiencies can be achieved by narrowing or eliminating gaps in services. The Board recognizes the need to have 100% broadband coverage throughout Washington County and this study starts the pathway to meeting the goal of 100% access to broadband in Washington County.

Washington County Code Enforcement has assigned a new Code Enforcement Officer [CEO] to Greenwich. The new CEO is Elliot Granger. Theo Celani is going to be assigned to the Cambridge area. Theo thanks for your many years of outstanding service the TOG. Good Luck on your new assignment.