

## Supervisors August Report 2021

**COVID-19:** Washington County Public Safety conducted a briefing on August 4<sup>th</sup> to provide update on the current status of Covid 19 cases. County DOH advises that there is an uptick in Covid-19 cases. At the time of the briefing there are 33 active cases and 2 are hospitalized. One delta variant has been identified in Washington County. There are 5 labs that in NYS that do variant testing. Public Health is waiting for guidance from NYS regarding use of facemasks.

### **FOLLOWING VACCINATION STATS & BREAKTHROUGH CASES REPORTED**

**8/6/21**

Our Washington County, NY Public Health Department team continues to track our local COVID-19 vaccination statistics and monitor the "breakthrough" (COVID-19 + cases of those who are fully vaccinated) cases investigated within the county. As of this morning, the [#nysvaccinetracker](#) shows 32,142 people in Washington County have received the completed vaccine series, 33,856 have received at least one dose (or 55.3% of the population). To date, of the 32,142 fully vaccinated people in Washington County, investigative efforts have identified 27 breakthrough cases, in which a new positive COVID-19 case has been fully vaccinated. Of the 27 current breakthrough cases, two had been hospitalized related to COVID-19, the remainder experienced no or mild symptoms. *NOTE: We do not currently have the breakdown of total vaccinated by vaccine and are working to attempt to obtain that information from our state partners.* Here's the stats of our local "breakthrough" cases by vaccine type:

- 20 - Received Pfizer
- 6 - Received J&J (Janssen)
- 1 - Received Moderna

**Greenwich Budget: 2021- 2022 Retiree Healthcare Costs:** In 2021 TOG expended a total of \$26,981.64 on retiree healthcare. Five retirees are 65 plus \$326 per month; Three retirees under 65 \$617.97 per month. Two employees retired during the current fiscal year and impacted costs for part of 2021. Also, retirees under 65 receive a \$2200 stipend for their medical co-pays.

Projected retiree healthcare costs for 2022 is \$45,492.46 an increase of \$18,510.82. Each retire receives a \$2200 stipend for co-pays. When the stipend is factored in the actual cost for retiree health care costs in **2022 is \$52092.46**

When the three under 65 retirees reach 65 their costs will be reduced by approximately 50%. TOG was notified by health care providers of an 8.8% increase in 2022. The continued rise in healthcare costs will have a significant impact on future TOG budgets. TOG will work with Jager & Flynn to find ways to reduce costs without impacting coverage.

**Lincoln Avenue Local Law 2 of 2021:** No Parking No Standing signs have been installed on Lincoln Avenue.

**Ferguson Road Culvert:** TOG requested the design plans and item cost projects from DOT. DOT provided the requested information. I have sent the plans to Washington County engineers for their review. I will meet with the engineers next week. TOG has until the end of 2022 to plan on replacing the culvert. That gives TOG time to explore options.

**New York State and Municipal Facilities Program [SAM]:** TOG submitted a preliminary SAM application with the assistance of Carrie Woerner for capital funding for the purchase of a snowplow truck. Our preliminary application was accepted, and more detailed application was submitted to Ways and Means Committee for further consideration. If approved the SAM funding would provide \$125,000 toward a new truck. I would like to thank Carrie for her assistance in the SAM process.

**Traffic Circle:** I contacted NYS DOT regarding the traffic circle and street lighting. After much discussion DOT determined that the maintenance of the circle streetlights was DOT responsibility. DOT is sending a maintenance team to fix the streetlights. DOT is aware of the damage on the curbing of the traffic circle and is planning to fix the curbing and bricks before winter.

**HRP:** Bids for the remodeling of the outside of the classroom building are required to be delivered to the Town Clerk on August 25. Special Board Meeting is scheduled for August 26 at 7:00 pm to review the bids.

**John Farndell Meeting Room:** a 12-foot conference table, made locally, and 10 chairs have been ordered. A bronze sign has been ordered for the entrance into the meeting room. Donations have been raised to cover the costs for the table and chairs. The TOG appreciates Dawn Sharts efforts chairing the committee and getting support for the project.

**Marijuana Referendum:** NYS requires propositions for the November ballot be turned into the Board of Elections 90 days before the November election [August 2]. Because the 90-day ballot requirement conflicts with the 75-day requirement for a referendum TOG cannot get the referendum on the Nov ballot. TOG will have to hold a special election before Dec 31 to have residents vote on the issue.

**Street Flags and Veteran Signs:** I did some research on costs from the vender that provided flags and Veteran kits to Ft. Edward, Saratoga, and several other Towns in Washington County. Flag kit: Flag, flagpole, and poll attachments \$90.00 to \$100.00 depending on quantity. Veterans Banner: Two-sided banner with photo \$250 to \$300, poll attachments \$200 to \$250 depending on quantity. The next step is to schedule a meeting of interested parties to determine community interest.

**Summer Camp:** We had 112 campers register and had 75 to 90 campers on a daily basis. Campers had two field trips Strike Zone and Fun Spot. Campers went to Lauderdale Beach for swimming 3 days per week weather permitting. Washington County provided a progressive swim instructor to evaluate our campers. This is a DOH requirement. TOG has two certified lifeguards for next year and looking to provide training for 2-3 additional lifeguards in spring 2022.

Six weeks goes fast but the camp would not be a success without the hard work of the counselors and Food for Kids. Special thanks to Nessel Brothers for supplying lunch meats, Stewarts, Ice Cream Man for providing ice cream and Jay's Pizza making lunch a special treat for the campers.

Director George Ostrowski did an outstanding job managing the camp and providing leadership for our counselors. Thank you, George, for a great summer you provided for our campers.

A side note: The waterslide was a great hit with the campers. The kids were having such a great time I had to give the slide a try!

**Washington County:** Chairman Sam Hall appointed me Chairman of the Cannabis working group to provide recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the impact of the new Cannabis laws. Sheriff's Office, Probation and employees with commercial driver's licenses are currently regulated by federal requirements and no action is required at this time. Under current NYS law cannabis can be smoked in areas that allow cigarettes to be smoked. The committee recommended that a smoke free policy be adopted for all county facilities. The recommendation was sent the Governments Operations Committee [GOC] for review. The GOC voted to move the updated smoke free policy to the full Board for consideration.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has released a new public dashboard that will display trends occurring within Washington County. Sheriff Murphy recognizes the value of being able to share local substance abuse statistics with the general public and local partners, as substance abuse has continued to increase both locally and nationally. The link can be found on the County website.