

## Supervisors October Report 2021

**COVID-19:** The number of cases is increasing in Washington County. Hospitalizations have remained fairly constant. The county is holding vaccination clinics throughout the county. The booster shot for Pfizer vaccine is being offered. Information for vaccinations is posted on the Town and County websites.

**Greenwich Budget:** Twenty-two-year analysis of the taxable portion of the budget [TPB] reveals the TPB budget increased 110% over 22 years.

Under Supervisor Don Wilbur the TPB increased from \$633,486 to \$1,009,915 a 59% increase.

Under Supervisor Sara Idelman the TPB increased from \$1,010,107 to \$1,331,534 a 37% increase.

For the first time in 24 years Greenwich for 2 consecutive years will have a budget that does not increase the TPB.

New York State Comptroller's office issued the fiscal stress scores for 2020. Town of Greenwich has a score of 0.0. Final stress No Designation.

Town wide Annual Reassessment 2022: \$444,922,471 an increase of \$9,321,130 [2.12%].

**Everlasting Lights:** Judith Patrick reported that due to growing and supply issues attempts to get trees for this year is proving very difficult. If anyone knows any growers or suppliers, please contact the Everlasting Lights Committee.

**Hudson Riverside Park:** TOG received three bids to replace the roof and front door. The bids ranged from \$163,000 to \$129,800. B&L is reviewing bids for the reasonable lowest bidder.

**Flag Project:** The Town and Village portions of the project is completed. Fifty-six flags have been installed. The was truly a community project from volunteer hours to install the flags and all those that contributed to line of street with our Flag. Thank you - Mike Savage, The Troy's, VFW Tim Taylor, George Perkins, and Ed Wait. Also, GFD, MFG, and Greenwich DPW. Over the winter a committee will be formed to continue the project and focus on the Hometown Hero Banner Project.

**Ferguson Road Temporary Bridge:** The County DPW will install the temporary bridge in October.

**Battenkill Park:** The water system and bathroom will be winterized and closed the last week of October.

The Park will remain open as long as possible depending on weather conditions.

**Library Funding:** The library is a valuable part of the community. I have a 5-year proposal to move us down the road to tax equity for Town and Village residents. The public funds contribution is for library services that benefit all residents. The five-year proposal is a starting point for discussion between the Town, Village and Library. The predictability of public funding will allow the library to plan their budget on an annual and business-like basis. The library will have to exceed the tax cap to ensure tax equity for all our residents. NYS Tax cap legislation states "A library board can propose a budget that exceeds the tax cap by a 60% vote of their total board and if the budget requires voter approval, must be approved by simple majority of voters (+50%). I acknowledge that my proposal is a starting point for solving the tax equity issues. This can be a framework for future discussions. Let us begin our transition with clear minds and positive thoughts.