



KARL A. BRABENEC, MPA

DEERPARK TOWN SUPERVISOR



“The Supervisor’s Corner: News from Deer Park”

June/July 2010 Monthly Report

The town board continues to work very hard during the summer months.

In June, the board held firm to its promise and established four different reserve funds for future planning and projects. These reserve funds can only be used for a specific purpose and are comparable to personal savings accounts that can be used as rainy day funds. The reserve funds that were set up are for Highway Equipment; Capital Improvements to Buildings; Snow, Ice Removal and Road Repair; and Accrued Employee Benefit Liability. This is a first for the Town of Deer Park and this action will help our present and future town boards to properly plan and maintain the town’s equipment, property, and any future budgetary issues without the risk of major increases in town taxes. With certain exceptions, generally a permissive referendum is required prior to the expenditure of any funds from these reserve accounts.

With the board’s approval, I have signed an agreement with JNS Towers, Inc. to construct a cell phone tower on property that is located next to the town’s highway garage. JNS is currently pursuing agreements, on behalf of the town, with Verizon Wireless and AT&T to co-locate on the tower. This action will not only improve cell phone coverage in the area, it will also generate additional monthly income for the town over the next 30 years.

Councilman David Dean and our new bookkeeper, Samantha Parlman, have been examining certain bills for town facilities and have been negotiating with our vendors to achieve cost savings for the taxpayers. We were able to generate a \$100 savings per month on our garbage disposal and have also saved the town an average of \$100 per month on our necessary bottled water bill. This amounts to a \$2400 annual savings for the taxpayers. Kudos to Councilman Dean and Samantha for their time and hard work on this project.

We are also looking into potential cost savings by reducing our paper usage and ink purchasing. We are investigating ways where paperwork can be scanned and viewed over computers and the Internet and are encouraging the use of more e-mail and less paper mail to save on postage. We are constantly ordering from different vendors to buy necessary products at the lowest possible price. Although some of these actions achieve small cost savings, when added together, it is substantial. We will continue to shop around and look for cost savings opportunities on everything and I will report back to you once we have achieved a positive solution to the paper usage problem.

The town has had a continuing issue over the years with our Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks located behind the Highway Department Garage. The town board addressed this issue immediately before it became a big compliance problem. We contracted with Luzon Environmental to make the necessary improvements to correct the situation. And they have been working with us over the past few weeks to get our storage tanks in compliance and functional. This will save the town thousands of dollars in potential fines and penalties from the State and Federal government. I would like to thank John Storms and the rest of the Highway Department crew for their hard work in putting up a small pavilion structure to protect the storage tanks from the elements. In addition, a big thank you to the Port Jervis School District for allowing us to fuel our cars and trucks while our pumps were down.

After three years without having one, we have finally signed a contract with the Humane Society of Port Jervis/Deerpark, Inc. to assist the town in managing any stray dogs within the town. The town pays an annual fee for their services, which helps them to maintain their operations. They are a fantastic organization where you can adopt a pet that is in need of a good home.

Finally, our town has hired a Prosecutor to handle our vehicle and traffic tickets. Currently, a person who receives a ticket from the State Police is at a disadvantage to a person that receives a ticket from a Deerpark officer. This is because the State Police are not allowed to plea down their tickets to lesser charges, where Deerpark officers can plea down tickets. By having a prosecutor handle tickets, it places all tickets on a level playing field and will save the town money in overtime costs. We will be trying this out for a six month trial period to see if it is cost effective for our town and will assess the results in January.

Until next time, I wish you and your family health and happiness.