



## FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

Aug. – Oct. 2017

Does it seem possible that November is upon us? August and September were busy months with county budget meetings for all my departments as well as all the usual committee meetings. September is National Youth Court month. Warren County has had a Youth Court for the past eighteen years. It promotes character improvement for youth by creating an atmosphere with positive adult role models where youth not only hold their peers to a higher standard, but also themselves. Approximately 1200 youth have completed more than 30,000 hours of community service. Warren County has decided to transition to a self-funded health insurance/prescription plan for county officers, employees and retirees with the expectation of cost savings.

Dave Wick, Executive Director of the LGPC and several of its members met with the Town Board to discuss recommendations to update storm water regulations. They will continue to work on this over the winter and will hold meetings in various towns next spring. We have some information on it in the lobby if you'd like to see what the changes are.

A couple of items will be on the ballot in November that you should consider voting YES on. One that would be beneficial to small towns would be Ballot Proposal #3. This will allow the state to add 250 acres of land to the Forest Preserve and allow Adirondack and Catskill communities to remove a total of 250 existing acres over a period of years without the burden of a constitutional amendment. The bank can only be used when public health and safety projects can't be completed otherwise. Local governments, environmental groups, business organizations and recreational enthusiasts are supporting this. Ballot proposal #3 makes perfect sense. Please vote YES. The second one deals with elected officials and policymakers who commit a felony. They will no longer be eligible for pensions earned during public service. This will take place following a vote by the public on the constitutional amendment.

The LGA received a grant from NYS DEC which in turn helped defray the cost of our park attendants at the boat launch this year. On another grant you may have seen in the Post Star where we were awarded a grant of \$98,563 for upgrades to our WWTP. Unfortunately, the article doesn't tell the whole story. The original grant was for \$394,250 with funding being 85% state and 15% town BUT somewhere along the way it has become a 75% Town (\$295,687) and 25% state (98,563). In order to receive the \$98,563 we must borrow the total of \$394,250, complete the project and then submit an accounting of what the money was spent for and then receive the awarded amount. So in essence, we would be spending \$400,000 to get \$99,000. If we had the money in the first place we would not have applied for the grant.

You may have noticed some changes at the transfer station. We had contracted with Casella Waste Management to operate the Transfer Station, which they have done for a number of years. That is no longer the case but Casella is working with us for a smooth transition. If you pay by check please make it out to the Town of Hague. Hours will stay the same as will disposal rates until spring time when the terms of this agreement are due to expire. Should you have any suggestions to improve our service and keep costs down we would be happy to entertain them.

At my Mental Health committee meeting on October 24, 2017 we had a presentation on the opioid crisis and Hometown vs Heroin and Addiction Coalition. What you ask is an opioid? Opioids are medicines used to relieve pain. They can be natural or synthetic (manufactured). When taken they create a feeling of euphoria and they are HIGHLY habit forming and addictive. We had 4 presenters that dealt with prevention, treatment, and recovery and law enforcement. What an eye opener it was for all of us! It is a big problem even in Warren County. This coalition receives no state funding yet the Baywood Center has 170 clients. Over 50% of them are ages 19-25. 70% are not in the labor force as they have no skills. The statistics are staggering. Drug overdose deaths from synthetic opioids have more than doubled between 2016 and 2017 in the U.S. Do you have DRUGS that are unused or expired? The Warren County Sheriff's Office has a Drop Box in the lobby where you can dispose of these drugs (any prescription or over the counter medication) 24/7.

On another topic, it seems that people are neglecting to contact the Coordinator of the Community Center for its use. We have a list of rules and an application that must be completed to reserve or use a space in the building. Bertha Dunsmore is appointed by the Board to be the Community Center Coordinator. Please contact her to make the necessary arrangements and if applicable pay a use fee. We have had some confusion as of late as people have neglected to make arrangements.

I am sorry to inform you that the Town Board will be **DISCONTINUING** the **AFTER SCHOOL BUS** effective the **first of January**. Unfortunately, it is cost prohibitive. There have been only 1 or 2 children on some days and no children at all on many other days. We still pay for the service as a bus with a driver must go to each stop only to find no kids. We had hoped there would be more participation.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 1<sup>st</sup> - Town Board public hearing on 2018 budget at 6 pm.

November 7<sup>th</sup> – Election Day – get out and VOTE and then enjoy lunch served by Hague Vol. Fire Dept.

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veterans' Day - Memorial service at 11 a.m. at Veterans' park with lunch to follow sponsored by the HVFD at the Fire Department. There will also be a Vendor/Craft Fair in the community center from 10-4.



#### Quote

“Trusting your intuitive heart means listening to and trusting that quiet inner voice that knows what it is you need to do, what actions need to be taken, or changes need to be made to your life.”