



## FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

January – February 2017

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

January 5<sup>th</sup> was organization Day at Warren County. Ron Conover was installed as chairman and we were given our committee assignments. I serve as chairman of the Health and Human Services & Social Services committee (which includes Public Health, Social Services, Mental Health, Office of the Aging, Veterans Affairs, Employment Training, Countryside Adult home and Youth Program), I was also appointed to the Committees of Finance, Occupancy Tax, Personnel & Higher Education, Public works (which includes DPW, Parks, Recreation & Railroad, WC Sewer and Solid Waste & Recycling), Shared Services, Support Services (which include numerous departments) and Tourism. It will involve much more time, but I look forward to the challenge. Attendance at the County meetings is an integral part of being a Supervisor. It allows me the opportunity to hear about upcoming grants, new laws, rules or regulations that may affect our town. More important is being able to stay informed regarding the issues that need to be voted on at the County Board meeting, many of which affect our tax base.

I attended NYSAC (NYS Association of Counties) conference in Albany from January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>. Delegates from 57 counties and the City of New York with over 900 attendees convened for this conference. We attended meetings, educational forums, keynote addresses and state budget presentations. We also received an insightful assessment of the state's economic conditions, a presentation on the sobering numbers of New Yorkers being lost to opioid addiction and a rather stirring speech about the Governor's proposal to have county leaders convene local governments to develop a local referendum to share services. A Shared Services Program is something most local governments have already been doing, albeit on a smaller scale, but Warren County worked on a county wide shared services program that went into effect January 2017 and will continue through 2019. NYSAC President William E. Cherry stated that their county opposed the Governor's forced shared services referendum proposal as drafted. "If Albany wants to explore alternative ways to reduce every property tax bill, then we can help them as respected partners and equals in public service" Cherry said. "If Albany wants the help and advice of some of the best efficiency experts on the planet to help them lower property taxes, county leaders stand ready, willing and able." His speech was terrific! One last statement that resounded with all of county attendees was "Rather than addressing the true, root cause of the problem and tackling the very difficult and challenging task of taking steps to fix it, Albany has found an easy target to point to and say "THERE is your problem!...High property taxes are the result of inefficiencies at the local level, and your county officials simply, and stubbornly, refuse to deal with them. Albany's strategy has been to create a scapegoat to be the focal point of public unrest over high property taxes. We have been painted as the villains, but Albany somehow managed to present themselves as the Heroes, even though they have handed down all the unfunded mandates." Was the conference worthwhile? Most definitely.

Have you heard of Phantom Lab in Greenwich, N. Y.? Neither had I until I went to Inter-County last week. The company was started 27 years ago with 6 employees. It now has 18. What do they do? They manufacture high-end x-ray equipment for CAT scan machines, X-ray machines, etc. They sell their products internationally and most sales are done by phone or on the Internet. We were given a tour by a man who started there at 17 and is now 45. He knew nothing

when he went there, but learned from the ground up. The owner started the business in Greenwich because he loves the area - the ability to fish, hike, ski and snowshoe. Within the building he has a complete workout room with showers, a sauna and lockers. Snowshoes and skis are available if they want to use them during their lunch break. To find out more about the company go on line to [www.phantomlab.com](http://www.phantomlab.com).

At our February 17, 2017 county board meeting we passed a resolution requesting action by the state legislature regarding management of the STAR program, approved contracts with CSEA employees, passed a resolution supporting the request by the Village of Lake George for funding assistance for construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and authorized the submission of several grant applications to NYS of which funding for indigent services was one and another was for funding for the runway extension at the airport.

This was in The Sun, but I wanted to be sure that you are aware that PRIDE has a \$400,000 federal grant for the HOME program, to assist residents of Essex, Washington, and Warren counties with single-family home repairs through grants up to \$25,000. If you have a need, please contact them. (Pride of Ticonderoga)

We were all saddened by the passing of Debbie Manning, our Town Clerk. She was an integral part of the functioning of the Community Center. She will be missed.

The Town Board appointed Janet Hanna to be acting Town Clerk until December 31, 2017. Janet has appointed Nancy Young to be her deputy. They both have been working hard to learn all aspects of their job.

We are patiently waiting the return of our "snowbirds" so that we may generate as much information from the public as possible to finalize our Comprehensive Plan updates.

Quote taken from "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff" —When you go out of your way to make someone else feel good, it ends up brightening your day and making yourself feel better as well. It reminds you that so often the nicest things in life aren't "things". Instead they are the feelings that accompany acts of kindness and nice gestures.

Today is the first day of spring. Enjoy the sunshine!

