

November 2010



GROVELAND NEWSLETTER,
JIM MERRICK, SUPERVISOR

Wow where did the summer go! Hope it was enjoyable to you all. It is that time of year again to bring you up to date on our town and county news.

Town: Despite the confusion, uncertainty and mandates in Albany, we have put together a responsible 2011 budget. The main increases include \$20,000 for a new roof over the Town Hall & Highway Department, \$50,000 from our truck fund for a used 10-wheeler or a new box for our existing truck and the rest is mainly insurance increases. Our fund balances are slightly lower than usual but adequate. Due to a revalue year and our budget; the tax rate will decrease from 3.69 to 3.37 per thousand. You will find at the end of this newsletter all the tax rate information along with the county rate information.

The Town has completed and adopted a Farmland Protection Plan. It was a long process that brought several of our community residents together to work with our Engineer and create a plan that really will help locate prime farmland and a balance of residential growth. This started by obtaining a \$25,000 grant to help create this plan and lay the foundation of a comprehensive plan. A big thank you goes out to Craig Phelps who was the Advisory Committee Chairperson who worked closely with committee members, town board members and the engineer to get the

project done. The state has made preliminary approval stating future on-going Advisory Committee will be necessary and to seriously consider adopting a Right to Farm law. If you area resident of the town and have read through the farmland plan and would like to be considered for the advisory committee please feel free write a letter to the Town Clerk's office. The Farmland Law is on the town website www.grovelandny.org

Town Clerk: Our Town Clerk, Sandy has kept us informed of the upcoming changes to the NYS Ag & Markets law pertaining to licensing of dogs. She says the law is effective January 1, 2011 and that renewal notices came from the state and starting January will be coming from her office. The state has pushed many of the costs down to the local level and will be requiring us to look at the fees that have not changed since 1979. Current fees are \$5.50 for spayed/neutered dog and \$13.50 for an unspayed/unneutered dog. Licensing of a Dog is for public health and safety and population control. If you have not licensed your dog of 4 months or older yet, please stop in to see Sandy before the end of the year. An updated local law will be forthcoming to update the changes in the law along with any fee increases.

Sandy has also reported to the town board members that she will be adjusting her 2011 Wednesday office hours. It appears that when the Justice Department holds its' court night that many of the out of town offenders enter through her office and places a safety concern onto her and the court staff. The court security officer arrives at 5 p.m. and the clerk office was open until 6p.m., but will change to 5 p.m. starting January.

Town Hall/Court: We were notified by the State Court System that we were not awarded a grant to improve our court and hall area. This has much to do with our state economy and the many cuts at the state level. Surprisingly with the upcoming state budget they are offering court grants again and we are trying to obtain funding for our court office for minor improvements that will not require construction.

Ambuscade Park: We have submitted a grant over the summer for a log cabin with running water and electric to be installed. It takes a year for notification on the Park grants. So again we will be crossing our fingers. In 2012 will mark Groveland's 200th Anniversary and this would be great location for our community to celebrate at if awarded.

Lake View Cemetery: Those who visit the cemetery have noticed that rainy weather makes it difficult to keep up with the trimming & mowing, and continues to be a challenge to find someone interested in such an enormous job, but our highway department has really made great strides to find the right person.

Our Highway Superintendent, Greg oversees the sales and burials at Lake View Cemetery but if anyone is interested in purchasing a plot you should contact Snyder Services @ 335-9820. They provide a wonderful service to the town and are very knowledgeable of the available plots.

Groveland Fire Department: It is that time again for the delicious breakfasts. The breakfasts are held the second Sunday of each month through March. Stop down to see all their hard work and you won't go home hungry after one of their breakfasts.

Groveland Highway Department: We have received many positive remarks from property owners on the reconstruction of Barber Hill Road from Maple Beach Road to Hunt Hill Road. A big thank you to Greg and his highway crew for another job well done!

The highway spent much of their summer working on county highway projects to meet the town budget restraints.

Conesus Lake: The Compact of Towns is still alive and well. We have had lengthy discussions on how to handle the flood gates at Lakeville. We now have a one year contract with Livingston County Water and Sewer Department to operate and maintain the gates and outlet.

We received our report from DEC and Corp of Engineers on the gate and outlet maintenance with no major infractions. There are a few minor conditions to correct.

Both the Town and Livingston County continues to fund their share of the maintenance, water shed inspector and watershed Council. A big thank you to the Conesus Lake Association for all you do and your help.

Oh - and congratulation on your Great Lakes Restoration Grant of \$35,714.00. You can view the Conesus Lake Association - Laker News @ www.conesuslake.org

Points of Interest:

- We are seeking your help to fill vacancies on the ZBA & Planning Boards. If you are interested, please contact the Town clerk for more details.
- I want to again thank the Halley Allen Legion Post 1341 for the donation of flowers that were planted by Greg & Sandy at the Veterans Memorials located at the Town Hall and the Ambuscade Park. There were truly beautiful.
- A big thanks to all of our Town of Groveland employees for a great job again this Year! Our Department Heads and employees did their part in spending less in these difficult times.
- Thank you Tanner Harvey for the work you accomplished at the Lake View Cemetery.
- Another big thank you to Phyllis Meyer for planting flowers under the Ambuscade sign at Rosebrugh Road.
- Our Highway Superintendent, Greg continues to monitor surplus equipment and supplies to meet our needs.
- The 2010 census has been completed the results come out sometime in January.
- The town website is up and running. Our Town Clerk, Sandra Bean is the Administrator to keep costs down. Minutes and information continues to be added on a regular basis. Feel free to call if you have any questions or comments on how to improve it. Take a look at it by logging on to www.grovelandny.org

- If you are someone who reads this newsletter and are not on the mailing list, and would like to be. Please call the Town Clerk @ 243-1750.

County Level: Mandates – Mandates – Mandates. All counties are looking for “Mandate” relief from Albany. “Home Rule” you have to get permission from Albany to enact a local law, to increase mortgage & transfer tax fees -No Response!

Livingston County lost \$100,000 and stands to lose \$500,000 to \$700,000 next year if no action is taken in Albany. These monies were planned to make our new jail payment. We have a Board of Supervisors that addresses our needs not our wants! We have put together some highlights:

- Funds all existing programs and services
- Aside from 8 COC- mandated correction officer titles – no new positions
- Outside new CO titles, year to year budgeted full-time staffing – Minus 9
- Health Insurance budgeted for 15% increase in September 2011
- Department Head Salary schedule staff increase 1.25% increase
- Sales Tax budgeted at 1.75% increase
- No Home Rule Revenues budgeted
- No Federal Inmate board-in revenue budgeted

I have enclosed a portion of the county budget for your review.

The new jail just had the official ribbon cutting in early November. Sheriff York put a tremendous amount of work into

meeting the mandates for a new facility. Look for open tours; it really is a great addition the county. It is now ready to house additional inmates.

In closing, I continue to ask our state elected officials for member item monies and grants to assist us in road work, building expansions, Ambuscade Park updates, etc. Not much has happened in these areas yet! We have to continue to sort out our needs verses our wants; which is why we continue to be in good financial shape in both the town and county even in these difficult economic times.

It is with all the support you have given me and our town board members, which allow us to be prudent with our budgets, and I thank you for that. We will keep trying to do our best for you.

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and be sure to drive carefully this winter.

Jim