

Rhinebeck Village Newsletter for July

Hoping you are all enjoying this beautiful Rhinebeck summer. In June, I was happy to welcome Sam Fallon and Chris Decker as our first ever Summer Pilot Program employees, a first for the Village. If successful, we will look for ways to fund this program in the future. Sam and Chris are already hard at work painting hydrants and general maintenance work in the Village.

And, this week, Anthony Valent will be joining our great team at the Water Plant. Anthony will be water plant trainee, and his arrival completes our staffing at that facility.

Meanwhile, Trustee Brant Neuneker continues to lead the Water Vulnerability Discussion with Village Engineers. A study of the likely effects of sea level rise on the river has been reviewed. The three areas that are most vulnerable are the access road, the low lift pump stations, and the lagoon. Crawford Engineering is conducting a review of proposals for each, and looking at the availability of grants to pay for improvements. Those estimated costs are:

- Road access \$365,000
- Low lift pump stations: \$65,000
- Replacing the Lagoon: \$1,000,000

The most critical component are the low lift pump stations. They are the supply pumps connecting the river water to the water plant. A 50% Climate Smart Grant will be submitted for approval for this project.

The Village board approved resolutions for a \$250,000 capital outlay for Water Improvement projects on Montgomery, Livingston, Chestnut and Platt, pending bond and grant approvals.

We now have the results of the ongoing County Wide Shared Services Initiatives being conducted by County Executive Marc Molinaro and all Dutchess County Mayors and Supervisors. The needs identified by all of us were ranked in order of interest. This could be a great opportunity for the Village to save money by participating in cost saving initiatives on County shared purchasing and procurement. We are continuing to work with Dutchess County to evaluate their proposals and the potential for Village cost savings.

One great way to save both time and money is to modernize our Village document filing system. Village Clerk Pat Coon is leading that effort. Right now we don't have enough hard copy storage space in Village Hall, so finding paperwork is very time consuming for everyone. Not only are we digitizing records, we are adding storage to organize and consolidate records. We need to do this to be in compliance with NYS Guidelines and Retention policies. Pat is doing a great job.

As you know, we are very fortunate to have a great police department that serves the Village and Town with integrity. Our new contract with Police Department employees has been negotiated and is now out for a vote. Negotiations on salaries and new hire incentives were primary topics. We also unanimously approved the purchasing of a new police car to replace the oldest car in the fleet.

We are in the process of replacing a Highway Department truck that can no longer be used for plowing. Motions were approved to purchase a new truck with a plow to improve our snow removal. It should be in place and ready to roll by winter.

The sidewalk construction on West Market St. was re-bid and awarded. DOT and neighboring engineers are finalizing drawings and a project start date.

The Shared Highway Services study is currently being reviewed by the County. I expect we will soon be able to move on this project with the Town of Rhinebeck.

Under the guidance of Trustee Ric Lewit, paving of Astor and Montgomery is progressing well. Contracts were awarded for curb construction at the intersection of Astor and Montgomery. An IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement) with the Town was approved, based on the best bid for doing the paving.

And Verizon is coming to the Village Cell Tower. We have signed a licensing agreement which will not only bring added income to the Village but cell phone service will be improved. We are going to get new storage facilities in the parking lot to replace existing space which will be used by the cell tower's electrical equipment.

As always, I appreciate your participation and your feedback.

Please stay in touch, and enjoy the rest of your summer.

Feel free to contact me anytime at MayorBassett@villageofrhinebeckny.gov or come to see me during open hours from 1pm to 2pm daily.

Sincerely,

Gary Bassett

Mayor, Village of Rhinebeck

Completion is this summer. An IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement) with the Town was approved if they are the lowest bidder for paving.

Verizon is coming to the village cell tower! The licensing agreement was signed. This will bring added income to the Village and improved cell service for residents. The Village will be obtaining new storage facilities in the parking lot to replace existing storage space used by the cell tower electrical equipment.

Our Village Clerk Patricia Coon is leading the efforts for electronic storage. This is the digital storing of essential documents needed to be maintained at the Village. Currently hard copy storage space is a premium in Village Hall for files. Access and retrieval is a time-consuming process. We've purchased additional shelving to organize and consolidate with long-term plans focused on digitizing files for electronic storage. The Village needs to be in compliance with the NYS Guidelines and retention policies.

The ongoing County Wide Shared Services Initiatives conducted by County Executive Marc Molinaro and all the Dutchess County of Mayors and Supervisors was compiled and ranked in order of interest. The Village is participating in several cost saving initiatives that were proposed. Final Adoption and cost savings from the County are needed before anything will be adopted.

Our Police contract was negotiated and is now out to vote by the members. Negotiations on salaries and new hire incentives were primary topics. We are fortunate to have a great police department that serves the Village and Town with integrity.

Welcome Sam Fallon and Chris Decker as our first Summer Pilot Program employees are here. Chris and Sam are already working hard, painting hydrants and performing maintenance work in the Village.

Welcome Anthony Valenti, as a water plant trainee, this will complete our staffing at the water plant.

Anthony is joining the already great team on July 11th.

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Trustee Neuneker continued the Water Vulnerability Discussion with Village engineers focused on protection of the water plant due to sea level rise study was reviewed. Three areas of impact are the access road, low lift pump stations and lagoon. A review of proposals on each were discussed including the availability of grants was completed by Crawford Engineering. Estimated costs for each are, road access \$365,000, Low lift Pumps stations \$65,000 and replacing the lagoon \$1,000,000. The most critical component was the Low lift pump stations. They are the supply pumps connecting the river water to the water plant. A 50% Climate Smart Grant will be submitted for approval for this project.

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Shared Highway Services study is at County for updates. We should be able to move on this study soon with the Town of Rhinebeck.

Paving of Astor and Montgomery is progressing well under the guidance of Trustee Lewit. Contracts were awarded for the curb construction at the intersection of Astor and Montgomery. Completion is this summer. An IMA (Inter Municipal Agreement) with the Town was approved if they are the lowest bidder for paving.

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