

# **TOWN TALK**

## Supervisor's Report to the Community

July 2009

This is my second update to the community. I hope the initial report was valuable to you, and contained information that the community was interested in. You may also access this report at the town's website: [www.townofhounsfield-ny.gov/](http://www.townofhounsfield-ny.gov/). I encourage you to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the Town of Hounsfield. Please call me at home (788-5609) or e-mail me at [mdelsignore@ridgeviewtel.us](mailto:mdelsignore@ridgeviewtel.us). Enjoy the summer season!!

### **Public Safety Building**

The Town of Hounsfield and the Village of Sackets Harbor have agreed to share services at our Public Safety Building on West Washington Street by moving the Village Police office into available space at the facility. The shared service arrangement will have the Town of Hounsfield paying for utilities, heat, and routine maintenance, and the Village of Sackets Harbor covering the costs of water and sewer. In addition, the Village will provide bailiff services for the court on District Attorney night (one Thursday per month). The consolidated services will improve efficiency, potentially provide opportunities to access additional resources through shared service grant applications, and project a consistent presence for our law enforcement/legal services in the community.

### **Lakeside Cemetery**

The Town of Hounsfield has taken responsibility for Lakeside Cemetery from the Lakeside Cemetery Association. The Town, through its Cemetery Committee, is organizing its structure as new "owners" of the cemetery. The Town Board approved a resolution at its June 2009 meeting adopting a policy that payment plans for cemetery plots would no longer be offered. Existing cemetery plot purchases with balances due would have one year (until July 1, 2010) to pay the remaining balance. Individuals with existing balances will be notified of the new policy. New purchases of Lakeside Cemetery plots would require payment in full at the time of purchase. The Cemetery Committee will be also looking at cemetery maintenance rules and regulations, and will be forwarding recommendations to the Town Board for approval and implementation.

### **Water District #5 (Airport)**

The Town of Hounsfield received funding approval commitments from the New York State Office of the Comptroller and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural

Development. In essence, these organizations have considered this project worthy of serving the public interest, and in doing so, permits us the opportunity to proceed with efforts to secure funding for the project. The project would bring water to Route 180 from near the Evans Road to the intersection of Route 12F, from Route 12F to the hamlet of Paddy Hill, and Lee, Lodi, and Foster Park Roads, as well as the airport. There are still steps (applications) to be completed, but the confirmation of project worthiness by these two organizations helps us to move forward and seek the best funding opportunities to produce a viable, affordable project. Good news indeed!

### **Water District #3 (Route 3/Westcott Beach)**

This long-awaited project continues to move along well. Contractors are pleased with their progress to date, and seem to be on-schedule for completion. We have had minor adjustments to planned water line routes, and should the weather continue to be reasonable and equipment continue to be reliable, construction work will proceed as planned. Please be patient around the construction areas, and observe appropriate safety measures.

### **Emergency Water Interconnect**

After months of discussion, the municipalities (Town of Hounsfield, Town of Watertown, Village of Sackets Harbor, and City of Watertown) have executed an agreement that will ensure that water will flow in the unfortunate event that normal water supplies are interrupted. The Town of Hounsfield will pay the City of Watertown a one-time "standpipe" fee of \$15,000 for the interconnect, with the funds coming from grant monies remaining from our District #4 project, thereby requiring no local taxpayer dollars. Town workers will complete the construction of the remaining section of the water line (approximately 100 feet) this summer. Water will be provided only in the case of a water emergency, as declared by authorized municipal representatives.

### **2010 Town Budget**

The Town Board will begin discussions shortly on the 2010 town budget. We will be holding budget work sessions to identify the priorities for next year, the revenues available to us, and the expenses expected to be incurred. Dates and times of these sessions will be posted in the Town Offices, and the public is welcome to attend. These sessions are intended to provide access to the town board deliberations on the budget, but will not contain a public comment period (privilege of the floor), as occurs in regular town board meetings.

**"One thing you can give and still keep...is your word"**