

# **TOWN TALK**

## The Supervisor's Report to the Community

June 2009

It has been about six months since I was asked to accept the leadership role for the Town of Hounsfield. During this time I have learned a great deal about our town government, and have worked hard to promote the principles of accountability, responsible management of resources, and accessibility. I want to be able to share information with our residents as openly as possible, and have decided to use a monthly report to the community to share news of the Town with residents. I hope this report provides you with interesting and valuable information. I extend an open invitation to contact me with any questions and concerns you may have. I can be reached at home at 788-5609 or by e-mail @ [mdesignore@ridgeviewtel.us](mailto:mdesignore@ridgeviewtel.us).

Marty DelSignore, Town Supervisor

- Wind Power:** The Galloo Island project continues to move forward. The Department of Environmental Conservation hearings on the environmental impact study have been completed. I had the opportunity to tour Galloo Island, observe the proposed physical locations for the turbines, meet with the current owners of the island, and view firsthand the current and future "look" of the island.
- Agriculture:** A new venture was unveiled in May... the 1000 Islands Agricultural Tour. This promotion provides information via cell phone on local agriculture-based tourism attractions. Each site has a tour number, and by dialing 315-221-5104 and then the corresponding site number, you will hear a short introduction about the tourist site. Two attractions in the Town of Hounsfield are currently included in the "tour" – Old McDonald's Farm (Stop #61) and Yellow Barn Winery (Stop # 91). You may also visit [www.agvisit.com](http://www.agvisit.com) for more information.
- Water:** After a wait of nearly four years, Water District #3 (Westcott Beach Project) construction is underway. I secured final approvals from state agencies, and I am pleased to report that construction bids came in under budget. You will notice work along NYS Route 3, County Route 75, and Ridge Road during the summer.
- Roads:** As you have probably already seen, the Jefferson County Highway Department is rebuilding County Route 62 from Route 3 into the village. Additionally, NYS Department of Transportation will be doing road work on Route 3 from Watertown to Henderson this summer. Please "give them a brake" and plan and proceed accordingly.

**Revaluation:** The town-wide revaluation continues to work through the process of establishing a new assessment roll for the Town. It is expected that the final roll will be set sometime around July 1<sup>st</sup>. I am aware of the concerns town residents have about assessments, and I will be requesting that the Town Board work diligently and responsibly to reduce the tax levy (reflected in the cost per \$1000 of assessed value) to ameliorate the impact of increased assessments.

**New Committee:** I have asked Christine Eggleston, our ZBA Chair, to lead a new Residential Energy Committee. This committee is tasked with looking at issues related to the reasonable and responsible use of energy resources for residential use. The committee will be looking at broad-based designs and principles that can provide long-term benefit and appropriate development of residential energy applications. Committee members include: Kevin Smith, Dwayne Eppley, Janet Quinn, Dean Anthony, Don Dimonda, Todd Farrington, Genie McKay, Sharry Rogers, and Christine Eggleston.

**Interconnect:** Final negotiations on an agreement with the City of Watertown, Town of Watertown, and Village of Sackets Harbor are continuing to establish a water supply agreement between the municipalities in the event of a failure of our water system. The agreement would only be utilized in an emergency situation, but would ensure the availability of water to residents. The construction of the final one hundred feet (or so) of water line on Route 3 to connect the systems will occur as part of this interconnect.

**Organizational:** I'd like to note a few organizational items that have been implemented since I assumed the Supervisor's job: Revised Town Procurement Policy, a Town Cell Phone Policy for town-paid cell phones, Standardized Procedures for Review and Payment of Bills, Standardized Town Employee Payment Schedule. Current projects include: Audit of our Town Payroll System, and development of a Town Fixed Asset Policy and Procedure

Future reports will include information from Town Board meetings, updates on projects, and information that I hope will be of interest to you. Thank you for your interest and valued input.

"I've learned that success is more often the result of hard work than of talent."

-H. Jackson Brown Jr.