

2017 will be a good year for Webster

As everyone in the USA settles after the national elections in November, there is some optimism as we move forward in 2017. There is some hope that nationally healthcare costs will finally go down, and some of the mandated EPA regulations that have hampered and drove the costs of equipment up in the last eight years, will be lessened.

The Town Board continues to provide quality services to the community at a reasonable tax rate considering that the town only receives a very little amount of money from New York State in the form of state aid. Your community services are funded with your tax dollars, some sales tax monies, mortgage tax dollars, fees, and the diligence of the Webster Town Board to only spend monies that are needed to provide the required services Webster residents want and deserve.

In 2017 the intersections at Route 404 and Hard Road and Five Mile Line Road will be redone by New York State. They will install right and left turning lanes and turning arrows that match for fastest ease through the intersections. They will also put in sidewalks in these areas along with handicapped access from one side of the road to the other. The Town of Webster is currently looking for grant dollars to put sidewalks all along Route 404 from Holt Road to Five Mile Line Road to help in building a pedestrian walking path along Route 404. New York State will be back in the summer of 2017 finishing up on some of the over pass bridges that still need work that are left over from the 2015 to 2016 construction project. Some delays are expected again in the summer of 2017, but they should not last as long as in 2016.

Webster home construction continued in 2016 with over 108 new homes being built along with the senior project on Hard Road now available to residents. New tenants arrived at Towne Center this year in time for the Christmas season such as Yankee Candle, Five Below, Home Goods, Michaels, Bath and Body, Core Life, and T-Mobile. Webster Plaza saw the renovation of the Library completed, and if I must say so myself, it is one of the best looking libraries in all of Monroe County. Pet Savers also opened as a new tenant in Webster Plaza and many a dog owners love that addition to the town.

Taco Bell opened last year and there is one more building pad available for some construction of another restaurant on Hard Road sometime in the future. Other building projects are in the process before the Planning Board and the community will be hearing more about them as they move through the process to final stages of development.

The Town of Webster received a \$118,000 grant from New York State for design and engineering of waterfront improvements at Sandbar Park. The application has been submitted and as soon as we hear back from New York State that it was approved; the town will then go out to Requests for Proposals (RFP) for an engineering firm for study and design. We hope to engage the Webster community in the decision process of upgrading the waterfront at Sandbar Park later in 2017.

The bond for \$3.9 million was approved by the Town Board in 2016 for SSAFE (Safety Sustainability and Facility Enhancements) for renovations and upgrades to many of our town buildings which are older buildings and need some upkeep and updating. A parks building to house our parks employees and give them inside plumbing instead of an outside Johnny on the Spot has been constructed on Route 250 and was completely built by our own Parks Department employees during late fall and this winter. This saved the town a considerable amount of money on construction rather than going out to bid on this project and having contractors do the project. Our thanks go out to our Parks Employees for a job well done and I wish them well in their new home providing park services to the town.

A new cell tower was erected on the grounds at the Parks and Recreation building providing the town better Wi-Fi service to all of our town buildings and providing service to the Recreation Center. In the case of a state or national emergency, the Recreation Center is a Red Cross station and this will aid in communications for all.

The new Town Board room at the Van Ingen Court Building, which will house all Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, has been completed as of this article. However, the cable lines have not been introduced into the building yet. As soon as that task is completed all meetings of the three boards will take place there as we progress to making improvements to the Town Hall which was built in 1956. New bathrooms, employee lunch room, additional work stations, plus security measures will be implemented in the existing building. In the Police Department new lockers, painting, and evidence room improvements are being made, along with a security fence around the police cars which has already been installed.

In the bond at the Highway Department the Town Board authorized \$575,000 for a new grader replacing one that was 36 years old, and we purchased another road sweeper replacing one that was 25 years old. Just recently the town purchased a bucket truck for \$15,000 so the Highway Department will be able to use this in the removal of trees and to cut back the tree canopy cover over our roads in some sub-divisions. This will help the sun to dry out these roads after rain storms and aid in their road maintenance schedule.

The Webster Police Department continues to serve and protect our town 24-hours a day seven days a week. Drugs are becoming a bigger and bigger problem in our town each and every day and is a huge problem to the department each day trying to keep these drugs away from our children in the community. There are many more court cases in justice court have something to do with drugs and some sort of factor in a criminal complaint. Needless to say, drugs are in our schools, and it is a problem this community and all parents should take very seriously when talking to our children. The Webster Police are here to help so never be afraid of calling to ask for a Webster Police officer at 911.

The Sewer Department that sometimes does not get a lot of recognition, is on call around the clock taking care of any wastewater problems having to do with your home or any of the pump

stations we have located around town. You do not hear much about this department because rarely is there a big problem with wastewater in our town. However, it is a big operation run by 10 employees on a daily basis. They are a very experienced group and a very important part of the Town of Webster family providing a much needed service to the town and we thank them for performing this work in not the best of smelling conditions.

As we look forward to 2017 I must tell the Webster community that the Town of Webster is very solid financially in part because I have a very talented Town Board that spends countless hours on details to the Webster budgets. Each month each invoice or bill is gone over by one Town Board member and the Director of Finance. They look at our spending and income revenues which allow us to maximize the dollars we spend and control the tax rate to Webster residents.

This year's tax rate increase by your Town Board was five cents per thousand and when you compare just the rate increase against the County (at 23 cents per thousand) or the Webster School District (at 30 cents per thousand - that does not include the capital bond increase that was passed), I think Webster residents understand that the Webster Town Board is constantly consistent in bringing home quality services for a lower tax rate. When looking at your Webster Tax Dollar, 13% is spent by the Webster Town Board, 25% by Monroe County, and 62% by the Webster Central School District. The combined tax rate for all three entities for 2017 will be \$39.02 per thousand.

If you have any questions or concerns about what is happening in the Town of Webster, please email me at supervisor@ci.ny.us, or call the office at (585) 872-7068.