

# Monthly Supervisor's Report: September 2014

*The latest updates from the desk of Richmond Town Supervisor Ralph Angelo:*

## Road and Waterway Repairs

Pavement restoration continues after flood damage that occurred on July 28<sup>th</sup>, and much progress has been made. A number of aging culverts are failing after the storm, and replacement work will be ongoing. The Ontario County Soil & Water District (OCSWD) is currently doing a hydrology study on East Lake Road to determine if pipes are undersized.

To minimize future flood damage, work is currently underway to clear gravel and woody debris from a portion of the Honeoye Lake Outlet north of Route 20A. An OCSWCD representative will also be walking Mill Creek with Town Highway Superintendent Tom Fleig to make a plan for improving the flow of water.

## Status of Water Projects

Chatfield Engineers has reported the following progress on municipal water projects that are underway or being evaluated:

- **East Lake Road:** An attorney specializing in this practice area has been authorized to begin legal proceedings to obtain 16 easements that are required to begin construction. Project specifications and documentation have been submitted to reviewing agencies.
- **Ashley/White Road:** The Office of the State Comptroller has approved the project to move forward, and fieldwork is beginning this month. Engineers hope to bid the project in the early part of 2015.
- **Big Tree Road:** A public meeting was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> to share the results of a survey that resulted in approximately 55% of respondents indicating they were in favor of the Town continuing the process of creating a water district. Concerns remain on the high cost of debt service, with estimated annual costs of \$2200 per household. The State Comptroller must approve the costs and procedural documentation before a municipality can move forward with creating a district; their cost threshold for automatic approval of a district is significantly lower, at an estimated annual \$850 per household.

## Honeoye Lake Water Quality

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force Chairman Terry Gronwall reported that Dr. Brue Gilman recently finished a zebra mussel survey, and determined that the population in Honeoye Lake has decreased by 33% since 2002.

The Task Force is now sponsoring an application for a NYS Pollution Prevention Initiative Community Grant through RIT that would fund a demonstration project on the benefit of a municipal yard waste composting program. The program is aimed at showing that bringing leaves and yard debris to a town facility can reduce the quantity of organic debris that finds its way into the lake, where it will decay and release nutrients that encourage the growth of algae and aquatic weeds. Two grant awards will be released shortly; our hope is to receive up to \$226,000 in grant funding.

Work on a draft version of a local Soil and Erosion law is also underway to help manage the impact of construction activity on water quality.

## **2015 Budget Process and Financial Picture**

The Town Board has held several budget workshops, and is on target to file a preliminary budget before the deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to meet the state's tax levy cap so that residents can be eligible for a property tax rebate from the state.

Richmond was recently notified of its "fiscal stress" score for the last fiscal year through the Office of the State Comptroller. Under the Comptroller's monitoring system, a score of 45% or greater designates a municipality or school district that is susceptible to fiscal stress. We were pleased to see Richmond's score drop from 35% for the 2012 fiscal year to 12.9% for the 2013 fiscal year.

## **Annual Community Beautification Award**

The Honeoye Public Library was presented with the 2015 Community Beautification Award for the addition of a new public meeting room, foyer and exterior walkways. This award is presented annually to a homeowner, business or organization in recognition of outstanding efforts to improve the overall appearance of our community.

## **Economic Development**

The Richmond Planning Board is currently reviewing a conceptual site plan for Honeoye Partners that would create a mercantile and apartments in the former Ace's Restaurant.