

Monthly Supervisor's Report: October 2014

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

Status of Water Projects

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

- **East Lake Road:** Legal proceedings to obtain easements that are required to begin construction are now underway, and progress is at about 50%. A total of 8 remaining easements are outstanding.
- **Ashley/White Road:** Preparatory fieldwork for this project is beginning, and homeowners will see engineering staff in the area during the week of October 27th. Chatfield is estimating that the project can be bid in early 2015.
- **Big Tree Road:** With estimated annual costs of \$2200 per household, the high cost of debt service could be problematic in allowing this project to move forward. Research on this is currently underway.

Natural Gas

The NYS Public Service Commission recently approved a pilot project to extend natural gas service down East Lake Road. Representatives from National Fuels will be meeting with town officials this month to schedule a public informational meeting for residents in the service area.

Honeoye Lake Water Quality

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force Chairman Terry Gronwall reported that with a long, cold winter and relatively cool summer, lake water quality this past summer was greatly improved. Looking back over a historical period of 10 years, water quality for the summer of 2014 was second only to the summer of 2008. Water clarity consistently ranged from 8 to 12 feet, and weekly samples of blue-green algae showed levels that were significantly less than in previous years.

The Task Force continues to await word on the status of two submitted grant proposals that would provide funding for engineering and permitting of an inlet restoration project, and improvement of stream banks and catch basins in the watershed.

2015 Budget Process

The Town Board adopted a 2015 budget on October 21st, 2014. The adopted budget for the coming fiscal year does meet the state's tax levy cap, and increases the tax levy for the town's general and highway budget by a total of 2%. The impact to the town tax rate is an estimated three cents per thousand in assessed value.

This modest increase will be further offset by an estimated overall reduction of two cents per thousand in tax rates for the town's special districts, including lighting, fire and water. This reduction occurred because of an increase in overall assessed value for the fire district, which took on additional territory in Springwater and Canadice; as well as steadily declining debt service in the town's water districts.