

Monthly Supervisor's Report: December 2014

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

Holidays

With the help of Richmond employees and community members, holiday lights and decorations have been placed along Main Street and on the community gazebo. We wish you all a happy holiday season!

Tax Cap Review

A representative from the Office of the State Comptroller has reviewed the Town's supporting documentation and calculation of our tax levy limit for the fiscal year ending in 2015, and has determined that our tax levy is materially within the allowable limit. This review ensures that the Town is in compliance with state law that requires local governments to maintain any property tax levy increase to no more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

Fracking Legislation

The Richmond Town Board voted on December 9th to extend a moratorium on all activities related to high-volume hydraulic fracturing for nature gas for another 12-month period. This moratorium has been in place since January 2012, allowing time for a community-based Hydrofracking Focus Panel to research the issue; and for town officials to review the need for local laws that protect town roads and property.

The municipality cannot legislate the industry of hydrofracking, which is regulated by New York State. On December 17th, Governor Cuomo announced that he would ban fracking in New York, citing unresolved health issues and dubious economic benefits.

Honeoye Lake Water Quality

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has selected Honeoye and Conesus Lakes for a [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) analysis](#) that will model various external and internal nutrient sources that contribute to water quality issues. The TDML process will set target nutrient/pollution levels for each controllable nutrient source, and make recommendations on actions to address these levels.

This year, the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force secured a \$135,000 grant through the NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program, which will help to resolve erosion issues in the watershed that contribute to external nutrient load. However, the Task Force did not receive funding for two other grant applications that would have supported survey work and engineering for a Honeoye Lake Inlet Restoration Project, and a Community Yard Waste Management Demonstration Project. Going forward, the TMDL process for Honeoye Lake will pave the way for the Task Force to receive a high priority for funding when applying for grants to carry out actions recommended through the TMDL Final Report.

The TMDL process kicked off this month with a public meeting hosted by the DEC on December 15th at Livonia High School. Guests had the opportunity to learn more about the TDML process, and share feedback on water quality issues affecting Honeoye Lake. Videos of the presentation portion of this meeting are available through [the DEC's Clean Water Blueprint Public Participation page](#).

Natural Gas Pilot Project – East Lake Road

Representatives from National Fuel hosted a rescheduled community meeting on December 17th at the Richmond Fire Hall to share information about a natural gas expansion pilot project that will affect some residents of East Lake Road. Property owners located on or near the expansion path have been mailed notices from the gas utility. Information packets on the pilot project will be available at the Town Hall in January.

Status of Water Projects

- **East Lake Road:** Legal proceedings are still underway to obtain several easements required for project construction. These cases are headed to court, and a settlement is expected in January, with a 30-day appeal period to follow. The easement process is expected to be complete by the end of February.
- **Ashley/White Road:** Work is continuing to progress, and Chatfield Engineers hopes to bid the project in early 2015.
- **Big Tree Road:** State representatives Brian Kolb and Rich Funke have been asked to assist with determining whether there are any grant opportunities available that could bring costs down to an affordable amount for residents in this potential district.

Highway

The Richmond Highway Department has received a new 2015 Western Star truck that was on order. The new vehicle replaces an older truck in our fleet, ensuring that we can maintain our equipment in a cost-effective manner.