

Notes from the April 2022 meeting of the Hamilton, NY, Town Board (4.14.22)

Town Supervisor Eve Ann Schwartz reported that the Town's re-evaluation process is proceeding smoothly and on schedule. Assessor Rochelle Harris met informally with more than 300 property owners to discuss their proposed assessments. As Harris explains in her good article on the Town's website, May 1 is the tentative date for posting the new assessment roll. After that date, any changes to assessments will be through the grievance process, with grievance day for the Town of Hamilton set for May 26. (Link to Harris's tax article:

https://www.townofhamiltonny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif5581/f/uploads/assessors_article_on_assessment_update_2021.pdf).

Chris Rossi said that the Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group will cosponsor a Heat Smart Open House April 30 at a new home in Erieville that was constructed to be sustainable and employ low-carbon technology. Details and registration are available on the Town website:

<https://www.townofhamiltonny.gov/home/events/4826>.

Shwartz reported from the Madison County Supervisors meetings that the sales tax surge experienced in the County during the coronavirus pandemic is "tapering off," as reflected in Bookkeeper Brynley Wilcox's first-quarter accounting of sales tax received by the Town from the County (\$1,275 against an annual budget of \$5,500).

The Highway Department is fully engaged in its spring schedule, giving special attention to roads that will be resurfaced this summer. The Town expects to take delivery on its new replacement truck within the next week. Highway Superintendent Luke Dowsland has been working with the 9-Mile Swamp Park Committee refining details of the proposed park and boat launch in Hubbardsville. Final plans will be subject to DEC approval.

The Town Council continued its discussion of "stretch codes" that will be imposed on new construction statewide later this year. Travis DuBois presented an analysis of how the new requirements could increase construction costs. Municipalities can realize some incentives by adopting the codes early. The Town Council deferred action to its May meeting to allow for further study.

DuBois also briefed the Council on the latest operating numbers for the Southern Madison County Ambulance Corps (SOMAC), which reflect the challenge of providing emergency services in small communities. The Town underwrites SOMAC operations and carefully monitors expenses.

The Council approved a policy for community use of the meeting room in the new Town Office Building. Town Clerk Sue Reymers is the contact (s.reymers@townofhamilton.org).

The Council's next regular meeting is scheduled May 12. Visit the Town website for details (<https://www.townofhamiltonny.gov/>)

Jim Leach for the Hamilton Town Council