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Summer 2020

Dear Residents,

As summer fades away, I thought it would be a great time to give everyone some updates. But first I'd like to thank each of you for what's been a difficult spring and summer. We thank you for moving forward and coming together as a community during this pandemic. Business as usual has changed for everyone. We truly appreciate your patience as we work through many mandates that have affected office hours, court dates, and even our public meetings. Please call the Village Clerk's Office if you have any questions moving forward, 538-6565. Now for some updates:

Recreation summer park program

Because of COVID and the "phase" New York State was in, we felt the safest thing to do was to cancel the program. It was a very difficult decision to make but we wanted to keep the kids, staff and community safe. Let's hope 2021 will bring us back to normal.

Budget Amendments

Due to Covid19, there was an immediate concern about our 2020-2021 General Budget. The recommendation from the Comptroller's Office was to revisit our revenues. In particular, affected would be Sales Tax, Mortgage Tax and Court Fine revenues. We anticipate approximately \$86,000 in revenues might not come in. Therefore, the decision was made to be proactive and revise our budget by June 1st, the beginning of our new fiscal year. I looked at all expenditures and worked with our Clerk and Department Supervisors to remove \$86,000 from expenditures so that if there was a shortfall of revenues, we'd be prepared. Unfortunately, summer staff and Clerk hours were reduced. A vacant full-time Police Officer position was put on hold and overtime was reduced. Most departments operating and maintenance budgets were cut 10%. All employees are working very hard to keep the village running as it did prior to Covid19. As we go through this year, we will get a better idea of the "new normal" and that will help us prepare future budgets to the best of our ability.

LED Street Light Conversion

The Village is 100% LED street lights. We are quickly approaching one year since the conversion. After meeting with National Grid several times we learned several things.

1. Sodium bulbs will eventually be phased out.
2. If converting all 220+ street lights, they would pay us just shy of \$15,000.
3. We would also save approximately \$4,000 - \$7,000 off our electric bill; we are definitely seeing the savings.

Facility Renovations

You may have noticed our offices have had some work done. New windows, doors, siding and fresh exterior paint. Zero money from the tax payers! Our LED street light conversion money (\$15,000) paid for all upgrades. The offices were long overdue for some renovations. Also note that the Fire/Police Department roof was completely tore off and replaced with everything now being up to modern day codes.

Water Tower Demolition

Sorry to see it go! This has been a project in the making for about the last 10 years. The Livingston County Health Department has been requesting we repaint and make structural improvements for many years. Based on that we had an engineering study done which is also posted on our website. The study showed that the cost would be \$750,000 or more to bring the tower up to date. Since our water conversion to Monroe County Water the tower really became unnecessary. Our water tank on Granny Road has plenty of back-up capacity.

Our one dilemma was losing the rental income from the cellular antennas on top of the tower. A deal was made with Blue Sky Towers to erect a new cell tower further back off the road on village property. This deal paid the Village a \$115,000 lump sum up front. This covers Blue Sky Towers first 10 years of rent. After the 10 years, we will start receiving monthly rent based on how many providers are being carried on the tower. Percentages increase year after year. The lump sum payment covered all engineering and demolition cost. A win win for the Village.

New DPW Equipment

Our 1995 Ford L8000 (dump truck) has been costing the village a lot of repair money the last few years. We felt time was up! A brand new 6 Wheel Mack has been ordered. We are hoping for delivery prior to winter 2020. We are proud of our DPW for maintaining our equipment and getting the most out of all of our assets.

Urban Forestry Grant

We spent a lot of time late fall 2019 to apply for this. Working with Livingston County, DEC, and several arborist we feel we put a good application together. COVID may have hurt this process; we'll keep our fingers crossed.

Village Website

You may have noticed we have a new village website. Recently we hired Seth Graham Design to redesign our site with a new fresh look. We are working at improvements every day and encourage you to visit our site at www.villageofcaledonia.org; newest information can be found under Bulletin Board.

As you can see, behind the scenes we have been busy. We will continue to work hard for you and make business decisions that are beneficial for the community and the taxpayer's money. Please continue to be safe and healthy.

Respectfully,



Scott DiLiberto

Mayor, Village of Caledonia