

R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 12

February 2015

Minutes of Town Board Final Meeting: Dec 30, 2014

The final meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 30th day of December, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was call with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates and one interested citizen.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the following transfers:

From 'General Medical' A89060 to 'CDPHP' A4179 in the amount of \$5,000.00;

From 'Highway Medical' DA89060 to 'CDPHP' A4179 in the amount of \$5,000.00;

From 'Trucks' DA5131E22450 to 'Highway Equipment Fund' A7139 in the amount of \$20,472.00 (for money towards new truck);

From 'Misc. Equipment' DA5131E22999 to 'Misc. Highway Equipment' (to be set up) in the amount of \$10,000.00

From 'Accrual Savings' DA5110E17221 to 'Highway Accrual' (to be set up) in the amount of \$5,000.00 (to cover banked accrual time);

From 'Ring of Honor' A6510R to 'New Checking Account' (to be set up) in the amount of \$3,719.76 (to hold donations for maintenance of Ring of Honor);

From 'Contingency' A1990E44999 to 'Legal Fees' A1420E44043 in the amount of \$9.50 (to cover legal fees);

From 'Contingency' A1990E44999 to 'PH Lighting' SL5182PH4410 in the amount of \$35.18 (to cover street lighting)

2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS: General Fund - \$16,995.43; Highway Fund - \$16,371.85; Sewer Fund - \$57.27; Water Fund - \$15,248.72; TA Fund - \$4,872.91; Total Abstracts: \$53,546.18

OLD BUSINESS: The Department of Environmental Conservation has recommended three changes to the National Flood Insurance Program paperwork which was submitted by Attorney Fallati as follows:

- a. Change 'Plan Administrator' from the Planning Board to the Code Enforcement Officer'

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b. the D.E. C. had entered 'Rensselaer' County in their draft, this should be changed to 'Albany' County; and

c. a fee is recommended for filing a development permit

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to charge a fee of \$50.00 for a flood plain development permit; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

NEW BUSINESS: Richard Tollner has successfully completed the required coursework and has received his certification as a State Certified Assessor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Councilman Wood to go into Executive Session at 7:14 PM to discuss personnel; 2nd by Councilman Bolte. (Highway Superintendent Bates was also in attendance.) *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to return from Executive Session at 7:41 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Wood that due to the hazardous conditions of the highways on December 10, 2014 and upon the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent, the employee that was late due to the weather conditions will be paid his call-in time; 2nd by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (4) Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (1) Lounsbury*

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir; *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;
Victoria H. Kraker, Town Clerk



From the Editors: The 2014 Collective Bargaining Agreement (contract) with the highway employees has this information about call-out time: Section 4. "Call out pay. An employee called out for emergency duty in addition to, but does not attach to his regular working hours, will receive premium pay in accordance with Article XXI for a minimum of four (4) hours or hours actually worked, whichever is greater. **The hours actually worked shall commence from the time the employee receives the call to report to work provided the employee's response time is thirty (30) minutes or less.**"(The bold type is our emphasis.)

If this is the standard by which all highway employees must adhere, why is this employee being given special consideration? If tardiness, in general, is the issue, how is it being addressed and remedied?

Not too many years ago, an issue existed in the highway department in which a chronically tardy employee was being "protected" by a superior who allegedly punched in for the employee to avoid a tardy entry on his time card. As a result, a surveillance camera was installed by the time clock to monitor such behavior. Has this unethical behavior now resumed to continue to protect said employee? Has anyone checked the video lately?

The terms of a contract should/must be honored by both sides of the table, management as well as labor. When adherence to any of the terms of a contract becomes subjective and "at will," both sides lose.

Draft Minutes of Town Board Meeting: Jan. 8, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 8th day of January 2015 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Tom Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, and Investigator Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Also present were seven interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: Jost Nickelsberg questioned why the parking in the hamlet of Rensselaerville was a Town issue. Supervisor Lounsbury responded by stating that it became a Town issue when it was discussed at a Town Board meeting. Prior to that, a complaint had been filed and Towns' people thought it stemmed from the Town Board.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the following meetings: December 9, 2014– Work Meeting, December 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting , December 16, 2014 – Special – Route 85 Parking; December 30, 2014 – Final Meeting of 2014

The motion was seconded by Supervisor Lounsbury. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the following transfers:

From 'General Contingency 2014' A1990E44999 to 'Ambulance Fund' SA4540E89040 in the amount of \$484.00 (Moving balance from 2014 to cover increase in bill for 2015); From 'General Contingency 2014' A1990E44999 to 'Medusa Fire' SF3410MD89040 in the amount of \$420.00 (Moving balance from 2014 to cover increase in bill for 2015); From 'General Contingency 2014' A1990E44999 to 'Rensselaerville Fire' SF3410RN89040 in the amount of \$420.00 (Moving balance from 2014 to cover increase in bill for 2015); From 'General Contingency 2014' A1990E44999 to 'Tri-Village Fire' SF3410TV89040 in the amount of \$420.00 (Moving balance from 2014 to cover increase in bill for 2015); From 'Programs for the Aged 2014' A7610R 02770 to 'Vehicle Maintenance' A7610E 44072 in the amount of \$68.49 to cover the front-end alignment and rotation of tires.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS: General Fund - \$13,840.84; Highway Fund - \$64,456.62; Ambulance Fund - \$10,579.00; Fire Protection Fund - \$27,435.00; Sewer Fund - \$28,109.33; Water Fund - \$429.96; TA Fund - \$123.84; Total Abstracts -\$144,974.59

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to pay all signed vouchers; 2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Lounsbury read an email from Diana Hinchcliff regarding the subject of polling locations. The cost of the elections was brought up at the November 2014 meeting and a suggestion was made to consolidate the three polling locations into one in an effort to reduce costs. Ms. Hinchcliff is opposed to this as she feels it would cause considerable confusion among the community the same as it did several years ago when the County reconfigured the election districts. As a result of the outcry, the County Legislature again reconfigured election districts

which restored voters' rights to vote at their previous voting locations. She does not feel that consolidating is a good solution to resolve a financial issue. She suggested looking into other locations close to the current voting locations that could perhaps be rented at a lower cost or that charges could be negotiated.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR:

1. Supervisor Lounsbury received an email from Councilwoman Sedlmeir regarding the date for the Town-Wide Picnic.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to hold the Town-Wide Picnic on June 7, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

2. Councilwoman Sedlmeir would also like to see a procedure implemented that town's-people could follow if there is inclement weather on days that a Town Board meeting must be cancelled. Several suggestions were made such as notifying the library, posting a notice on the door of Town Hall, sending an email, posting notification on the website, and/or placing a recording on the phone at Town Hall. Although it was suggested that a cancellation be broadcasted on television or radio, Supervisor Lounsbury has investigated this, but has learned that sign-up must be done in the fall.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury that if there is a possibility that a Board meeting may be canceled due to inclement weather (or for other reasons), residents may check the website, call Town Hall, or check with the Library to find out the status of the meeting; 2nd Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

3. Supervisor Lounsbury has contacted Vector Security and has made all the updates necessary for 2015.

4. The contracts for the Fire Departments and the Ambulance have been sent out and should be returned as executed contracts that can be paid as soon as funds are available.

5. Payroll and Justice Court audits will need to be performed. Councilwoman Cooke and Councilman Wood will perform those audits.

6. Supervisor Lounsbury received a call from the County Comptroller, Frank Commisso Jr. He would like to have an informal meeting, either with the entire Board or just a few members, to discuss the Government Efficiency Plan that they are working on. January 21, 2015 at 10:30 AM was selected.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Supervisor's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

ATTORNEY:

1. Attorney Fallati submitted a revised Draft to the Department of Environmental Conservation, of the proposed Local Law relating to the National Flood Insurance Program, with the changes that were previously discussed and agreed upon.

2. Attorney Fallati read the Resolution which rescinds Local Law No. 1 of 2014 as follows:

(Continued from page 4)

RESOLUTION OF THE
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2014, the Town Board adopted Local Law No. 1 of 2014, which permitted the Town to override the limit in the increase in the Town’s assessment for Fiscal Year 2015 pursuant to Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has not incorporated a tax increase into its Fiscal Year 2015 budget in excess of the tax cap; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to rescind Local law No. 1 of 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted a public hearing on the attached proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2015, rescinding Local Law No. 1 of 2014 on January 6, 2015;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, ordains and enacts the attached Local Law No. 1 of 2015, which is incorporated herein.

By motion made by Valerie Lounsbury, and seconded by Margaret Sedlmeir, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 8th day of January 2015 as follows:

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent/Abstain</u>
Valerie Lounsbury, Supervisor	X		
Marion Cooke, Councilwoman	X		
Robert Bolte, Councilman	X		
Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilwoman	X		
Gerald Wood, Councilman	X		

END RESOLUTION

Local Law No. 1 of 2015

A Local Law Overriding Local Law No. 1 of 2014 Relating to the Override of the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2015

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Authority

The Town Board adopted by resolution on November 13, 2014 Local Law No. 1 of 2014, which overrode the tax levy limit for Fiscal Year 2015, pursuant to Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State, incorporated in Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law, but the Town Board has determined that it will not incorporate a tax increase into its Fiscal Year 2015 budget in excess of the tax cap.

Section 2. Rescission of Local Law No. 1 of 2014

Pursuant to Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law, Local Law No. 1 of 2014 is hereby rescinded.

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Section 3. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

END LOCAL LAW

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Attorney's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

1. Highway Superintendent Bates reported that due to the weather there has been a problem with mud especially on Davis Mountain Road. This 'spring' condition causes roads to become unstable and any attempt to repair them only makes the situation worse. Therefore, roads must be allowed to dry out and stabilize before any more permanent repairs can be performed.

2. This past weekend there were four trucks down – a result mostly of age and condition – three of them are back and running. Superintendent Bates wanted to put on record his acknowledgement of the quantity and quality of work the highway employees have been doing on these trucks. They have conveyor chains break and it's a miserable job to fix them; they fabricate the parts in the shop so that the trucks can be back in service almost immediately; they have rebuilt the front axle on truck #6, they pulled apart the differential gears, the axle, stripped it to the actual housing; repaired brakes; replaced hydraulic hoses; everything imaginable under extreme conditions. It's dirty, it's cold, and it's wet, but they continue on. Superintendent Bates could not fathom what the Town would do if it were not for the perseverance these men have shown.

3. Superintendent Bates apologized for not being aware that the resolution which was passed at the last meeting required him to inform the Town Supervisor of his intention to bid on equipment. He left the meeting early due to weather conditions and therefore did not hear the discussions, nor did he receive a copy of the resolution.

4. Superintendent Bates lost the bid on the excavator in Kingston. It went for \$21,200. It was in exceptional condition and to buy it new, would cost in excess of \$200,000. The limit set by the Board is \$20,000. The excavator the Town has now must be transported to the job site by loading it on a trailer. If it needs to be moved as little as a quarter of a mile, it must be reloaded. This is not sustainable during the construction season. Superintendent Bates will look into the possibility of rentals.

5. Superintendent Bates feels strongly that the Town needs to purchase a new truck. His reasoning is that during the construction season three trucks are typically used. One barely passed inspection this year. The Town's plow trucks and construction trucks have an average age of 19 years; the median age is 16 years. Typically trucks are in service from 12 to 15 years. The newer models will last a bit longer.

From 1998 to 2003, four trucks were purchased: a loader, a grader, an excavator, and a backhoe. Now all of that equipment is nearing the end of its life and all at the same time. For the highway department to maintain the roads, reliable equipment is necessary. Having the four trucks down this past weekend, the roads were a mess.

A new truck would cost roughly \$175,000 complete. In 2014, no money was spent on equipment. Superintendent Bates proposes selling truck #8 and #15. Potentially that could bring in \$15,000. Other options could be financing, using the 2006 and 2011 FEMA account, or CHIPS

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money. Superintendent Bates would be happy to provide quotes for the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Highway Superintendent's report, 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

TOWN CLERK: Water and Sewer Warrants accepted by Supervisor Lounsbury; 2nd by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of December as follows: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$363.71; Paid to the Supervisor - \$353.71 - the breakdown is as follows: Clerk Fees - \$74.25; Recycling - \$39.50; Dog Licenses - \$70.00; Kennel Boarding - \$77.00; Building Permits - \$82.96; Zoning - \$10.00; Total - \$353.71

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$10.00; Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$0

Authorization is needed to bill for the Water District in the amount of \$46,672.93 and the Sewer District in the amount of \$44,065.00. The billing year runs from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, with payments accepted up through November 1st.

Supervisor Lounsbury made a motion to accept the warrants from the Town Clerk authorizing her to bill and collect for the Water District Warrant in the amount of \$46,672.93 and the Sewer District Warrant for \$44,065.00; 2nd by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2nd by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR:

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported one Home Addition and one Building Repair for the month of December.

2. Following through on the barn on Smith's Corners, Officer Overbaugh reported that the barn is being taken down.

3. Officer Overbaugh recently discovered that Dana Salazar of the law firm Tabner, Ryan, and Keniry has left the firm. Officer Overbaugh stated that tremendous progress was made during Dana's tenure as Zoning, Planning, and Building Department attorney. Officer Overbaugh wished to commend Ms. Salazar for a job well done and hopes that someone as good and as available as she made herself, becomes the Town's next attorney.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Code Enforcement/Building Inspector's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

ASSESSORS:

1. Assessor Tollner reported that the Assessor's office has been processing STAR and agricultural exemptions.

2. He wished to inform all residents to contact the Assessor's office if they have any questions

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and that the Assessor's will be in their office on Saturday mornings by appointment only, now through March.

3. Supervisor Lounsbury commended Assessor Tollner on his State Certification.
4. Assessor Tollner has started on continuing education credits as well.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Assessor's report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE:

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that for the month of December, 575,500 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 19,200 gallons/day); and an average of a little over 6,000 gallons of sewage was pumped.

2. The last storm which produced heavy, wet snow and then severe melting, caused a fallen tree to get carried onto the intake pipe. The perforations in the pipe were covered with silt and rocks which has gotten caught up in the branches of the fallen tree. Officer Story removed the tree which allowed the water flow to resume.

3. Officer Story reported that there was a major leak in the Town of Westerlo. Since Westerlo has water meters, he was able to locate the property that had the leak within 5 to 6 hours. He feels that we are not going to be able to locate leaks here in Rensselaerville until we are able to measure the amount of water going through the system. Officer Story will bring this up to the Committee. He feels that, eventually, meters will need to be installed.

4. Melting snow and runoff has been getting into the septic system. Both pumps tripped their breakers. It was not until the next day that it was discovered that the level had reached a critical level. Somehow water is getting into the system and should not be. He feels it will become necessary to do inspections on individual houses to determine where the excess is coming from. He had contacted the Department of Environmental Conservation and has been warned that if we exceed our limit of 17,000 gallons/day, they will be looking at us.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept the Water/Sewer Treatment Officer's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

REFUSE/RECYCLING: Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck was ill today so therefore there will be no report from the Recycling Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter from the Association of Towns. The 2015 training session will be held on February 15 through 18, 2015 in New York City. If any employee wishes to attend, they may do so at their own expense.

2. Bill Ryan along with Derek Selman will be taking Dana Salazar's place as Zoning and Planning Board attorney.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

1. Jost Nickelsberg questioned what the Town was doing on an everyday basis to cut costs.

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Supervisor Lounsbury responded by stating that the heat has been kept low; purchasing is done in bulk and not unnecessarily; and every attempt is made to take advantage of special offers.

2. Jost Nickelsberg notes that Superintendent Bates has done a remarkable job with little money. He feels that it is a good idea to purchase a new truck as soon as possible. The Town needs to take advantage of Superintendent Bates' management skills while he is here.

3. Jost Nickelsberg suggests that the Highway Superintendent's salary be returned to what it was several years ago. He noted that Superintendent Bates is doing a stellar job and should be receiving a competitive wage among Town's our size.

4. Marie Dermody inquired about the billing of transitional work originally done by Dana Salazar. Supervisor Lounsbury and Attorney Fallati explained that the Town has a fixed retainer and that there would not be an extra charges.

5. Investigator Tracy Mance followed up on the parking issue in the hamlet of Rensselaerville. Now horn-blowing has become an issue

6. Highway Superintendent Bates inquired as to why more emphasis being placed on enforcement of a possible harassment charge than on parking.

7. Kenny Cooke, who is a volunteer driver, suggested that a log be kept in the Senior/Youth Bus indicating that either everything is okay or to list problems or concerns. This provides protection for everyone.

8. Councilman Bolte wanted to remind the Board that several years ago, that he offered the village of Rensselaerville free water meters on two occasions, but was refused.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

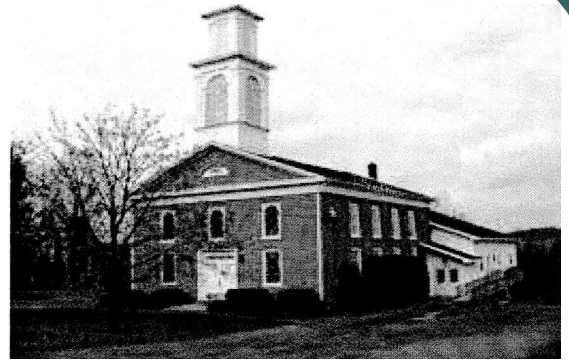
Victoria H. Kraker, Town Clerk



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of Albany

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(518)694-3511

Email: bowen@seniorservicesofalbany.com

www.seniorservicesofalbany.com

Policy vs. Practice

On February 9, 2012, the Town Board adopted revisions to the Town's Rules of Order. Although these Rules of Order are not posted on the Town's website per se, they can be viewed under the Newsletter tab (the May 2012 issue). That being said, the Town's practice does not always seem to meet the requirements of their own set of rules. For example:

Policy: "The agenda and all reports from the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent shall be available and open for the discussion at the work/agenda meeting scheduled for each Tuesday preceding the regular meeting to allow all Town Board members time to discuss the issues before the regular Town Board meeting."

Practice: The Supervisor will often present a "condensed" report, saving many details for the regular meetings on Thursday. The Superintendent, if present at the work meeting, may or may not present his report.

Policy: "Special Meetings: All special meetings will be held on evenings to allow the public and all Town Board members to attend. In an emergency situation a special meeting may be called during normal working hours."

Practice: A special Town Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 10:30 am. There was no emergency to necessitate veering from established policy. And this meeting was not noted on the community calendar nor was it advertised on the message board in front of Town Hall. So most the public was unaware that such a meeting was even scheduled.

Policy: "Public participation at all regular and special Town Board meetings will be opened to commentary as items are being discussed, to allow the public the right to have input before the Town Board takes action."

Practice: Members of the audience are instructed to wait until the "Audience Comments" segment of the agenda as general practice, except for certain privileged individuals.

Bottom line: The Town Board is free to establish Rules of Order as they see fit as long as they comply with municipal law. However, once such Rules of Order are created and approved, it is the responsibility of the Town Board to abide by them.



RVFD News

The Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank everyone from Berne, East Berne, Medusa, Tri-Village, and Westerlo for their help with the January 15th structure fire. This includes all the fire personnel, ambulance crews, and auxiliary members. Also thank you to the Rensselaerville Library and Conkling Hall for opening their doors to us to provide heat, facilities, hot drinks, etc. Thanks also to the Palmer House for providing hot soup. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the residents of Rensselaerville who showed up bringing us hot drinks and other offers of help and assistance. It was greatly appreciated!

We would also like to congratulate Chris Schiralli and Dennis Hostash. Chris and Dennis recently graduated from Firefighter 1. Please join us for a Community Meet and Greet reception on Sunday, February 8th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm at the Firehouse.

On The Calendar

Feb 1 & every Sunday	10am	Church Service All are invited.	Medusa United Church of Christ
Feb 8	4-5pm	RVFD Community Meet & Greet Reception	RVFD Firehouse
Feb 10	12 noon	Senior Lunch	Medusa Firehouse
Feb 10	6:30pm	Town Board Public Hearing: National Flood Insurance Program	Town Hall
Feb 10	7pm	Town Board Work Meeting	Town Hall
Feb 12	7pm	Town Board Regular Meeting	Town Hall
Feb 21	7-11am	Medusa VFD Breakfast Free will offering	Medusa Firehouse
Mar 15		NYS Annual Burn Ban begins	
Mar 21	7-11am	Medusa VFD Breakfast Free will offering	Medusa Firehouse
Mar 21	8am-2pm	Winter Rummage Sale "Eat & Shop in Medusa"	Medusa Church
Mar 28	4-6pm	RVFD Chicken BBQ Take-Out only - Details to follow	RVFD Firehouse
Apr 4		RVFD Easter Egg Hunt Make plans to join the Easter Bunny! Details to follow	

Medusa residents are saddened by the closing of the General Store, but the Post Office is still opened.



THANK YOU!

On Thursday, January 15, 2015 we lost our family home due to fire. Richard and I want to acknowledge and thank all the volunteer fire fighters from Rensselaerville, Medusa, Tri-Village, Berne and East Berne, for your response and heroic efforts in battling this fire. We also acknowledge and thank the Rensselaerville auxiliary members and the ambulance crew for providing on scene assistance. As tragic as this was, without all of you, it could have been much worse. Though we lost our beloved dog Huck, no other lives were lost, no other properties were involved and none of the fire fighters were injured. For that, we are very grateful. To our friends, neighbors, community, the Rensselaerville Library, the Palmer House, the Carey Center and especially our children, your generosity, support and love has helped us through a tough time. We always knew Rensselaerville was a special place, and you all have shown us how special it really is. With our deepest gratitude and appreciation, we thank you all.

Penny Grimes

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 2, 2015

At the he Organizational Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held on the 2nd day of January, 2015, the following appointments were made:

(Please note that the term of office for the following appointments is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, unless otherwise stated.)

ATTORNEY TO THE TOWN –Tabner, Ryan and Keniry, LLP, Albany,

TOWN VETERINARIAN –Dr. Diane Biederman

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGER - Brian Wood

CRITICAL INCIDENT OFFICER - Gerald Wood

DEPUTY TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT - Earl David Potter

CLERK TO THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT –Kim Welsch

WATER TREATMENT OFFICER - Douglas Story

DEPUTY WATER TREATMENT OFFICER –John Rice

SEWAGE TREATMENT OFFICER –Douglas Story

DEPUTY SEWAGE TREATMENT OFFICER –John Rice

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE MEMBER –Jack Long (for a term of 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2019)

RENSSELAERVILLE WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE – TERMS

Tom Delp	01/01/2010 – 12/31/2015
Barry Kuhar	01/01/2014 – 12/31/2016
Richard Platel	01/01/2013 - 12/31/2017
Micah Kuhar	01/01/2014 – 12/31/2018
Jack Long	01/01/2015 – 12/31/2019

CONSTABLE –Richard Simons

CLERK 1 TO SUPERVISOR (Bookkeeper) –Sarah Hunt

ACCOUNTANT TO THE TOWN –Pattison, Kosky, Howe and Bucci, CPA

DEPUTY SUPERVISOR –Marion Cooke

CLERK 2 TO ASSESSORS –Linda McCormick

DOG CONTROL OFFICER –Cheryl Teft-Baitsholts

REFUSE/RECYCLING OFFICER –Jon Whitbeck

SUBSTITUTE REFUSE/RECYCLING OFFICER –Edward Pizzigati

HISTORIAN –Janet Nelson

PLANNING BOARD –Scott Kunkler (for a term of 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2021)

PLANNING BOARD TERMS

Dorothea Cotter	01/01/2009 - 12/31/2015
Sherri Pine	01/01/2010 - 12/31/2016
Barry Kuhar	01/01/2014 - 12/31/2017
Walter Cooke	01/01/2012 - 12/31/2018

Richard Amedure	01/01/2013 - 12/31/2019
Travis Smigel	01/01/2014 – 12/31/2020
Scott Kunkler	01/01/2015 – 12/31/2021

PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN –Richard Amedure

PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD SECRETARY –Steven Pflering

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR – Mark Overbaugh

CLERK TO CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR - Mark Overbaugh

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –Anthony Guadagno (for a term of 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2019)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - TERMS

Bradley Chase	01/01/2011 - 12/31/2015
Jeannette Rice	01/01/2013 – 12/31/2016
Anthony Higgins	01/01/2013 – 12/31/2017
John Mormile	01/01/2014 – 12/31/2018
Anthony Guadagno	01/01/2015 – 12/31/2019

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CHAIRMAN –John Mormile

BOARD OF ETHICS TERMS

Allyn Wright	11/13/2014 – 12/31/2015
Georgette Koenig	04/12/2011 – 12/31/2016
Diana Hinchcliff	02/12/2012 – 12/31/2017
John Mormile	02/14/2013 – 12/31/2018
MaryAnne Overbaugh	02/12/2014 – 12/31/2019

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW- Bradley Chase

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (GRIEVANCE BOARD) - TERMS

Eric Sutton	01/10/2013 – 09/30/2017
Scott Whitbeck	01/02/2014 –09/30/2018
Bradley Chase	01/01/2015 – 09/30/2019

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS –Victoria Kraker

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK/COLLECTOR/REGISTRAR – Kathryn Wank

COURT CLERKS –Lorraine Case and Emileigh Tanner

RECORDS INVENTORY CLERK –Kathryn Wank

ENGINEER TO THE TOWN – Engineers will be contracted on an as-needed basis.

MILEAGE – 57.5 cents per mile

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER –*Altamont Enterprise* other newspapers as needed

DEPOSITORIES –Bank of Greene County

MEETING DATE –2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS – Supervisor Lounsbury stated that designated Town Officials be authorized to attend the Association of Towns Meeting in New York City in February at their own expense to be determined at a later date.

SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATORS –Ann Vogel

ASSISTANT SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR –Thomas Snyder

INVESTMENT POLICY- Supervisor Lounsbury moved to reaffirm the investment policy

FINANCIAL REPORT Supervisor be authorized 60 days after the close of the Fiscal Year to complete the Financial Report for the Town

BILLS –Supervisor is authorized to make payments in advance for lights, telephone, postage, postage express charges, postage meter payments and to pay principal and interest of indebtedness, stated salaries, compensation of various officers and employees regularly engaged to the Town at the agreed wage, by the hour, day, week, month or year and to pay amounts becoming lawfully due upon contracts for the periods exceeding one year for which provisions for payment has been made in the annual budget, and to make transfers from the medical insurance line items of the budget to the medical insurance bank account as needed to cover medical expenses for the employees covered under the medical insurance plan

WAGES –wage, salary and schedule of payments be adopted for the year 2014:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>PAID</u>
Town Council (4 @ \$3,000 each)	12,000	Monthly
Town Justice (2 @ \$9,150 each)	18,300	Weekly
Town Supervisor	12,500	Monthly
Town Clerk/Collector	32,280	Weekly
Assessors (3)		
Uncertified	4,635	Monthly
Certified	5,835	Monthly
Chairman	6,335	Monthly
Attorney to the Town	34,000	Quarterly
Building/Zoning Officer	14,930	Monthly
Dog Control Officer	5,140	Monthly
Registrar of Vital Statistics	580	Annually
Superintendent of Highways	42,300	Weekly
Constable	1,300	Monthly
Water Treatment Officer		
Uncertified	9,000	Monthly
Certified	10,000	Monthly
Deputy (\$10.00/hr.)	2,000	Monthly
Sewage Treatment Officer	5,000	Monthly
Deputy	1,000	Monthly
Water Rent Collector	400	Annually

HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PAID PER HOUR</u>	<u>PAID</u>
	<u>10/23/2014 – 10/23/2015</u>	
Foreman	\$19.09	Weekly
Truck Driver	18.29	Weekly
	<u>10/24/2015 – 04/23/2016</u>	
Foreman	\$19.27	Weekly
Truck Driver	18.47	Weekly

RECYCLING DEPARTMENT

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PAID PER HOUR</u>	<u>PAID</u>
Recycling Co-Ordinator	\$36,705 (salaried)	Weekly
Sub/Recycling	\$10.00	Weekly
Sub/Recycling (CDL)	\$11.64	Weekly

ADMINISTRATION

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY/WAGES</u>	<u>PAID</u>
Clerk 1 (\$19.90/hr.)	\$23,191	Weekly
Clerk 2 – Assessors (\$10.50/hr.)	11,500	Weekly
Deputy Town Clerk (\$11.00/hr.)	13,000	Weekly
Justice Clerk (2) (\$2,200.00 each – salaried)	4,400	Monthly
Planning Board Secretary (\$10.00/hr.)	3,500	Weekly
Zoning Secretary (\$10.00/hr.)	2,000	Weekly
Bldg. Inspector Clerk	3,276	Monthly
Clerk to Superintendent (\$11.00/hr.)	4,576	Monthly

BUILDINGS

Custodian (\$12.00/hr.)	2,000	Weekly
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BONDED OFFICIALS –Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Deputy Supervisor Marion Cooke, Town Justice Gregory Bischoff, Town Justice Ronald J. Bates, Superintendent Randy Bates, Town Clerk/Collector Victoria Kraker, Deputy Town Clerk/Collector Kathryn Wank, Building/Zoning Officer Mark Overbaugh, Planning/Zoning Board Secretary Steven Pflieger, and Clerk 1 Sarah Hunt



Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) the day before about riding the bus if you are interested.

The Town of Rensselaerville Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Medusa Fire House at noon. Anyone 55 years of age and older can join. Dues are \$8.00 a year due in June. We collect \$1.00 a month at the meeting for coffee, milk, etc. Please bring a covered dish to share. We eat promptly at noon and the meeting commences afterward. We have a picnic in August; in November, we have a Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant; and in December we have a Christmas dinner also. We have bus trips in the summer and fall. For further information, call Tom Snyder, President, at 239-4376.

Please note that we are in desperate need of drivers for the bus and the car. Please call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 if you're interested in volunteering as a driver for our senior citizens.

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

- • Department of Aging 447-7179
- • HEAP: 447-2551



BREAKFAST

AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE

7:00AM TO 11:00AM

~~September 2, 2014~~

~~October 18, 2014~~

~~November 15, 2014~~

~~December 20, 2014~~

~~January 17, 2015~~

February 21, 2015

March 21, 2015

April 18, 2015

PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPT

Fresh, hot, all-you-can-eat breakfast made to
order

Free will offering

Library News

Rensselaerville Library

February

Saturday, February 7th, Take Your Child to the Library Day. Visit the Library and see our Children's play area and check out what resources are available for children.

StoryTime is back starting on Friday, February 20th at 5:30 with an Art Theme.

The Library's Writing Group will meeting on Thursday, February 12th at 7pm. This informal and supportive writing group is designed for writers of all interests, backgrounds and abilities. Participants have time to write and share "works in progress" and receive the support needed. If you have questions please call Linda Miller at 936-4402.

The Library's Poetry Group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 10 & 24 at 7pm. Questions please contact Tom Corrado at tjc123@midtel.net

The Library's Board of Trustees meeting is on Monday, February 23rd at 7pm. The Meeting is open to the public.

March

The Library's Writing Group will meeting on Thursday, March 12th at 7pm. This informal and supportive writing group is designed for writers of all interests, backgrounds and abilities. Participants have time to write and share "works in progress" and receive the support needed. If you have questions please call Linda Miller at 936-4402.

The Library's Poetry Group will be meeting on Tuesday, March 10 & 24 at 7pm. Questions please contact Tom Corrado at tjc123@midtel.net

The Library's Board of Trustees meeting is on Monday, March 16th at 7pm. The Meeting is open to the public.

StoryTime, Friday, March 20th at 5:30 with a Music Theme.

Saturday, March 21, 2pm in the Library Storyteller Nancy Payne will read Norman Cohen's short stories. Mr. Cohen was a 2014 Festival of Writers local writer.

Friday, March 27th, 7pm in the Library, local caver Mike Warner will share his presentation on the super Caves of China. Mike Warner traveled to China in 2013 with NatGeo as a photographic and logistics assistant to a British team using cutting edge technology as they laser mapped China's Supercaves. The Team's journey was documented in the July 2014 issue of National Geographic Magazine.

April

April is National Poetry Month and there will be a number of events scheduled throughout the month.

Hours:	Sunday, Monday	Closed
	Tuesday, Wednesday	10am - 12pm; 4pm - 9pm
	Thursday, Friday	4pm - 9pm
	Saturday	9am - 1pm

Contact information: 1459 Route 351, Rensselaerville, NY 12147
 (518) 797-3949; Fax (518) 797-5211
www.rensselaervillelibrary.org

Library News (cont'd)

(Continued from page 18)

Middleburgh Library

- Feb. 1 **2:00pm** **Reel Talk Film Festival: Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives**
This documentary provides compelling evidence to help explain the deteriorating health of Americans, especially children, and offers a recipe for protecting ourselves and our future. *Registration is required. Refreshments will be served.*
- Feb. 2 **6:30pm** **Make It!: Beaded Jewelry** - Join us for an evening of creativity as you learn how to make your own jewelry by stringing beads. Create a necklace, earrings, bracelet or all three! No experience necessary, and all materials will be provided. Children over the age of 10 welcome with a parent. *Registration is required.*
- Feb 3 **10:45am** **Drop-in Storytime** - Get ready to move in this interactive storytime especially for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. We'll read books, sing songs, recite fingerplays, dance and watch a short movie based on a weekly theme. *No registration required.* (Also meets Feb 10, 17, 24)
- Feb 3 **1:00pm** **Mahjongg** - In the Community Room (Also meets Feb 10,7, 24)
- Feb 4 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: The Judge (R)** - Big city lawyer Hank Palmer returns to his childhood home where his father, the town's judge, is suspected of murder. Hank sets out to discover the truth and, along the way, reconnects with his estranged family. *No registration required. Free popcorn!*
- Feb 4 **5:00-6:15pm** **Kundalini Yoga** - Facilitated by Debra Krol, involves repetitive movements with the breath, building strength, toning the nerves and clearing the adrenal glands. Wear comfortable clothing and bring 2 blankets or a mat and blanket. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Use the back entrance when entering the building. *No registration required.* (Also meets Feb 18)
- Feb 5 **10:00am** **Beginning Tai Chi for Health and Fitness** - Tai Chi: Reduce pain and stiffness, helps you improve the ability to cope with stress and depression, increase concentration and memory, aid in balance and coordination, build muscle strength and stamina, improve posture, biomechanics, circulation, and heart and lung function. Basic Sun style Tai Chi will be taught in this 6 week session. Please wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing. A \$5.00 donation per class is required. *Registration is required.* (Also meets Feb 12, 19, 26)
- Feb 5 **1100am** **Advanced Tai Chi for Health and Fitness** - Tai Chi: Reduce pain and stiffness, helps you improve the ability to cope with stress and depression, increase concentration and memory, aid in balance and coordination, build muscle strength and stamina, improve posture, biomechanics, circulation, and heart and lung function. Advanced Sun style Tai Chi will be taught in this 6 week session. You must have completed the beginner class to register for this class. Please wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing. A \$5.00 donation per class is required. *Registration is required.*(Also meets Feb 12, 19, 26)
- Feb 5 **7:00pm** **Knitting Circle** - These friendly ladies (men are welcome, but we haven't seen any yet!) knit and crochet, embroider and quilt, and more. You can learn a new skill here or share your own special talents with others - or just craft in the company of friends. Drop in anytime! *No registration required.* (Also meets Feb 12, 19, 26)
- Feb 9 **6:30pm** **Board of Trustees Meeting** - Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend.
- Feb 11 **11:00am** **Doodlebugs: Preschool Art Exploration** - Doodlebugs is preschool art exploration for little ones and their caregivers. Appropriate for ages two and up. Registration is required.

- Feb 11 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: Rosewater (R)** - Maziar Bahari is a journalist of Iranian and Canadian heritage who is detained while he is in Iran on a special mission. While he is in prison, an ordeal that lasts for nearly four months, he is treated brutally by his captor, but he never sees his face. The only thing he has to identify his tormentor by is the discover who was responsible for bringing him so much misery. *No registration required. Free popcorn!*
- Feb 18 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: Birdman (R)** - A washed-up actor who once played an iconic superhero must overcome his ego and family trouble as he mounts a Broadway play in a bid to reclaim his past glory.. *No registration required. Free popcorn!*
- Feb 20 **5:30pm** **Dinner & a Movie: The Theory of Everything (PG-13) (CR)** - Join us as we watch Eddie Redmayne's Golden Globe winning portrayal of Steven Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*. As always, the library will provide pizza, salad and drinks and you bring a dessert or snack to share. *Please note that this film is rated PG-13 and is inappropriate for young children. Registration is required.*
- Feb 22
a **2:00pm** **Reel Talk Film Festival: "The Anatomy of a Great Deception"** - The film is fast-paced, "docu-thriller" following one man's peek behind the curtain of the official 9/11 story. As his investigation progresses he struggles to cope with the findings of his own research and the impact it has on his life and those around him. In the film, businessman-turned filmmaker, David Hooper takes the audience down the "rabbit hole" to get a deeper look at the evidence. He presents a compelling case for why, even after a decade, the story of 9/11 remains relevant.
- Feb 25 **11:00am** **Start with Science: Preschool Science Exploration!** - Preschoolers' ages three to five will learn about basic science through stories and hands on science activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult. *Registration is required.*
- Feb 25 **1:00pm** **Wednesday Matinee: St. Vincent (PG-13)** - A young boy whose parents have just divorced finds an unlikely friend and mentor in the misanthropic, bawdy, hedonistic war veteran who lives next door. *No registration required. Free popcorn!*

The events calendar for the Middleburgh Library can be found at: <http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=8616&thisMonth=2&thisYear=2015>

Contact information: 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122
(518) 827-5142
www.middleburghlibrary.info

Did you know

.... that MailChimp, the program used by the Town to send the Town newsletter to subscribers' email accounts, has some privacy issues as far as we can discern. Quotes from MailChimp's website include,

- 1) "Subscriber profiles - Get insight about your subscribers and keep your contacts in one place with subscriber profiles. Click someone's name to see engagement, website activity, and more."
- 2) "Track your performance - Unlike print and traditional direct marketing, email marketing allows you to track how many people opened your email campaigns and see exactly what they clicked."
- 3) "Subscriber activity reports - Dig even deeper with Subscriber Activity Reports, which give you a real-time report for every subscriber's email activities: when they opened, what they clicked, and when they came back for more. You can even generate a list of people who didn't open, and send them a modified campaign."

Although we're certain there are no nefarious motives in using such a program, there is always the opportunity for future misuse or abuse of subscriber information provided. We are happy to see that direct access to the Town's newsletter is now on www.renselaerville.com and therefore question whether email subscriptions to the newsletter are even necessary.

Post Office Information

<http://www.usps.com>



MEDUSA POST OFFICE: Phone 518-239-4826

(19 COUNTY ROUTE 351 MEDUSA, NY 12120)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:15am

Last Collection Hours: Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:15am

Lobby Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am



PRESTON HOLLOW POST OFFICE: Phone 518-239-6111

(2930 ROUTE 145 PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 10:30am; 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Sat 9:00am - 12:00pm

Last Collection Hours: Mon-Fri 5:00pm; Sat 12:00pm

Lobby Hours: Mon-Sat 12:01am - 11:59pm



RENSSELAERVILLE POST OFFICE: Phone 518-797-3231

(26 COUNTY ROUTE 353 RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm

Sat 8:00am - 11:00am

Last Collection Hours: Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:30am

Lobby Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am

Move

Breathe

Relax

YOGA: Tue. & Thu. 9-10:15 am

PILATES: Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm & Sat. 9-10 am

Classes Open to All at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT
savitrisarah@gmail.com, 518-239-6825

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00

All Others—\$12.00

Shared Highway Services Study

The ALBANY COUNTY COUNTYWIDE SHARED HIGHWAY SERVICES STUDY has been released and can be viewed in its entirety at: [http://www.albanycounty.com/Libraries/Department_of_Public_Works/COUNTYWIDE_SHARED_HIGHWAY_SERVICES_STUDY - FINAL no appendices December 2014.sflb.ashx](http://www.albanycounty.com/Libraries/Department_of_Public_Works/COUNTYWIDE_SHARED_HIGHWAY_SERVICES_STUDY_-_FINAL_no_appendices_December_2014.sflb.ashx)

As noted in the report, "The purpose of the Study is to identify opportunities to share highway services, reduce operating costs, and generate efficiencies that will enable the County to invest in necessary future capital improvements, while minimizing the property tax."

The report goes on to say that, "The Albany County, Countywide Shared Highway Services Study is a tool for the County and all local governments to identify feasible collaborative strategies for providing highway services in an alternative manner. The participating municipalities are confident that the Opportunities and Alternatives included in this Study will meet current and future economic challenges, and expand upon the good working relationship among municipal highway services providers. Implementing these strategies will also lead to future shared services endeavors that will ultimately result in [sic] future improved efficiencies and cost savings on a countywide level."

With regard to the Town of Rensselaerville:

§ Existing Shared Services:

- o Share various highway services with neighboring towns and adjoining counties (Broome in Schoharie County).
- o Use Albany County tree trimming services on occasion.

§ Opportunities exist for:

- o Sharing or jointly purchasing equipment that could be in a county or regional pool, i.e., excavator, paver, road widener.
- o Sharing engineering and other technical assistance when needed.

"In general, all of the "opportunities" identified would be supported if it proved to be financially viable for all involved parties. (It is important to note that challenges for service sharing may exist for departments who are unionized. Implementing service sharing may require union negotiations and the development of detailed inter-municipal agreements.)"

The report includes tables of information including municipal characteristics, road centerline mileage, highway personnel, DPW employee breakdown, personnel average salary/wages, plow routes and average miles per route, and more.

This 70-page document is an interesting read. Check it out!



Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads

Position	Name	Email Address
Town Supervisor	Valerie Lounsbury	vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Marion Cooke	mcooke@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Robert Bolte	rbolte@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com
Supervisor's Clerk	Sarah Hunt	shunt@rensselaerville.com
Town Clerk	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com
Assessors	Donna Kropp Richard Tollner Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com
Planning Board	Richard Amedure	mcarney@rensselaerville.com
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Mormile	mcarney@rensselaerville.com
Board of Ethics		ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 797-5201
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339



The Back Page

Contributors:

Kimberly Graff
Brenda Heath
William Moore
Kristina Tanner

Editors:

Nancy Class
Marie Dermody
Georgette Koenig



From the Editors:

As always, we ask that you make a copy or two of this newsletter to share with friends and neighbors who may not have Internet access. Our readership continues to grow, but we invite others to sign on by sending their email address to rvillenewsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to getting your feedback.



Please be advised that the Albany County Sheriff's Office did not publish a January 2015 newsletter. We look forward to its return next month.

