

Canisteo Village Newsletter

2019

A word from the Mayor...

Dear Village Resident,
Last year I sent this Village Newsletter out with water/sewer bills, providing an update of our accomplishments and future goals. Residents provided positive feedback regarding the information, so as promised; here is a recap on how we did and future goals.

In October 2017, the Board was notified that the annual financial reports were not filed for at least the past four years, which resulted in a budget shortfall. The Board made the decision to request an audit by the New York State Comptroller's Office and a Revenue Anticipation Loan was obtained in response to the shortfall. The audit lasted five months and assisted us in ensuring we are using taxpayer money effectively and efficiently. In addition, during the audit, we received training and technical assistance to improve our operations at all levels.

Three Village Board seats are up for election in March, my position as Mayor, and two trustees. Last year 243 residents voted, up from previous years, so I encourage you to vote on March 19, 2019.

I worked very closely with Village employees, providing oversight of all departments, to cut any unnecessary spending or find new ways to decrease costs with current services and practices. I am very proud of our Village employees who work hard to provide services in the most cost effective manner and thank them for their loyalty to the Board and our residents.



Monica Recktenwald
Mayor



Village Website www.villageofcanisteo.com

Our website contains a lot of information to include; approved board meeting minutes, breaking news, events and scheduled water shut offs. Various forms can be printed from the site, and on-line bill pay is available.

Office Hours

Village Hall office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. The Village Board meeting is usually the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. and residents are welcome to attend. The Mayor is at Village Hall almost every weekday; however you may schedule a meeting by contacting Village Hall staff.

Code Enforcement

John Foy is our Code Enforcement Officer. John is available to assist with building permits, rental inspections and other various code enforcement matters. In addition, the Village Codes can be found on our website. Contact Village Hall to schedule an appointment with John.

Contact us:

**8 Green Street
Canisteo, NY 14823
607-689-4553**

Accomplishment

- ✓ The downtown parking area was finished this past summer. Although removing the trees that uprooted curbs was a shock to some residents, the finished project has been met with positive feedback.
- ✓ To assist residents in meeting water/sewer payment deadlines without adding penalties, post cards are now being sent out four times a year for residents needing reminders. This year we had \$100,000 in past due bills, as opposed to \$180,000 past due last year. In addition, bills with water or sewer arrears now receive a 20% penalty every quarter. Previously no penalties were applied to accounts with nonpayment.
- ✓ To meet the needs of the 110 year old water/sewer system, the Village completed the requirements for submitting an application to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) Grant for \$3,000,000 this past August. We were notified in late December that the Village did not receive the WIIA Grant this fiscal year; however, we will continue to explore additional funding opportunities. In addition, we met the conditions of the Household Income Survey, where we will submit for a Community Block Grant for \$1,000,000 in June 2019.
- ✓ The Fire Department received two separate grants this past year, one grant of \$90,000 for the purchase of air tanks and another grant working with the City of Hornell where Canisteo received \$83,000 in new radios and pagers.
- ✓ Numerous practices were reviewed to decrease spending, some of these include: discontinued office cleaning service (staff perform this function); changed fleet services to another fuel service card which saves us approximately \$200/month in sales tax exemptions; refund of \$8500 from former fleet service card who did not recognize our tax exempt status; recognized the Village paid state and local sales tax for years to NYSEG and refunded three years worth totaling over \$1800; received \$600 in unclaimed funds; switched lights in the Water Treatment Plant to LED for a savings of \$150/month; switched former program used for Village Tax payments to Steuben County who tailored the program to our needs and free to use; worked with landlords to update all rental property inspections and meet Village Codes; finally paved North Hornell Street, the parking area downtown and Fifth Street by splitting our CHIPS reimbursement and get the most out of our paving to avoid financially burdening the Village.
- ✓ Hero Banners lined our Village streets this past summer. We thank the families and friends who shared their Heroes and allowed us to honor them. This program continues through the Canisteo Police Club and information to participate can be found on the Village Website.

Future Goals

- ✓ DPW and Fire Hall buildings are in need of major repairs. Both buildings require repairs that may make more sense to rebuild. Consider shared services with the Town.
- ✓ To comply with recent modification to the Village's State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit imposed by the Department of Environmental Conservation in May 2018, construction of a disinfection system for the Wastewater Treatment Plant must be completed by May 1, 2023.
- ✓ Village vehicles exceed their retention life. Number one priority is the Ambulance and we will continue to work with our Assemblyman and Senator for assistance as well as increasing our reserves to put towards the purchase.
- ✓ The Board approved the renaming of Patriot Park to "Nicholas F. Clark Memorial Park." The future plans for the Park is to have three monuments. The first will be in honor of Trooper Nicholas Clark, the second will be in honor of all fallen Veterans and finally the third will be in honor of all fallen First Responders. The Canisteo Community Support Group is the contact for this project.