

Weekly update June 27,2021

Emergency orders - At midnight on the 24th of June all emergency orders for New York State were allowed to lapse. For us, this means the town board is compelled to return to following open meetings law. I have reached out to the town's attorney to get opinion on how this might be modified to accommodate individuals who are still not comfortable returning to our former format. For the July 20 meeting we are planning on meeting in person at Tannery Pond Center with potential for other sites being advertised - all sites where board members are must be open to the public. We will continue to use zoom or a similar format to allow remote observation by the public.

4th of July Celebrations - The lifting of all restrictions means a "normal" celebration can take place. I've reviewed with organizers remaining best practices as advised by Warren County Dept of Public Health and we're all confident the celebrations will go smoothly and safely. The town will support with increased cleaning and hand sanitizing stations. Festivities start around 3:00, fireworks at dusk.

Sewer - Meeting with the school board went well. They are deliberating joining the project. If they do not, then the map of the project will be modified to end the sewer at Town Hall. It will not significantly affect the cost of the project.

Main St. re-paving: I informed the school board and public in attendance that we will be deferring Main St. project one more year. Everyone seemed to understand that if we went ahead with the combined road reclamation and water district improvements it would mean around 45% increase in materials that would have to be absorbed by the water district tax payers. I am told that construction materials are already starting to decrease in price, which is promising for a fall bid process/ summer 2022 construction schedule.

Rec Program/ Beach - Still going back and forth with DOH. One day they tell me that they are firm "no" on opening a beach without lifeguards, next day I am told that there have been beaches allowed to open without supervision and that they will get back to me with parameters. Will follow up this week.

Parks - We had a member of our parks team resign early in the week. We were able to fill the open position with personnel who were already hired as seasonal. The seasonal position is being advertised via social media and on the town's website and we already have an applicant.

Stimulus funding - This week I attended a luncheon with Senator Stec, Assemblyman Simpson and a representative from NYSAC (NY State Association of Counties). We were told that a new frequently asked questions (FAQ) was released June 24, you can find a link to this document here: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf> They do not expect that any new documents will be released that will supercede the "Interim Final Rule", which will guide how the money can be spent. Found here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-17/pdf/2021-10283.pdf>. I was also told that states have up to 90 days to distribute the funds, we are now in our 30 day extension period - if this is extended one last time this would mean monies will not be distributed until August.

Library 25th Birthday - The TOJ Library is 25 years old this year. We'll be planning celebrations!

SNCR - Received word this week that the Surface Transportation Board extended the abandonment stay until end of September to allow the bankruptcy trustee for Iowa Pacific time to explore sales options with several entities he says are interested in purchasing the Sanford branch for the purpose of running freight. None of these entities have approached Warren County with any proposals.

Warren County - Occ tax / tourism considered a new application and process for occupancy tax - this will be brought back again next month. There will be additional conversations for allocating money to towns. We will still receive the \$30 K in the fall and % of taxes collected previous year in June. There have been no moves to reinstate the additional \$15K lost to the towns last year. To remind , for this year we will be receiving the additional 15K to put toward our marketing initiative/ website maintenance and social media.

Housing - The housing working group in which I participate will be bringing in a real estate economist in August - will post invitation when it becomes available.

We got some great press this past week: <https://www.news10.com/news/newer-business-owners-bloom-through-pandemic-times-in-north-creek/>

Keeping an eye on: The discussion about mileage reimbursement prompted this editorial. - https://poststar.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-mileage-spat-demonstrates-fundamental-problem-with-warren-county-board/article_b322454a-112b-5bf5-961a-904cc90a0d27.html

I'm taking this week to work on budget. I'm available by phone, but do not plan to be in the office.

Have a great week!