

Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Short Takes

Expanding Landfill Hours

As part of the upcoming budget proposal a reconfiguration of current employees is anticipated to permit the Town landfill to be open for morning hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Hopefully this change could be implemented in early January, 09.

Elan Report

A final report of best proposed uses for the Kellogg/Waddell property is anticipated in the next several weeks from the professional planners who have worked several months on the project.

Community Economic Coalition

While members of the coalition are planning for a future farmer's market, it is expected that the entire coalition of all service providers will reconvene in Oct. to address financial challenges associated with gas, groceries and housing as winter approaches.

Oct. Board Meetings
Oct. 2 & 21



This 2008 International Dump/Plow truck is the newest addition to the Johnsburg Highway Dept. fleet. The truck was purchased with CHIPS monies at no cost to town taxpayers

Enclosed Pavilion to be Renovated Joint Town/ORDA Project

The small red pavilion in Ski Bowl Park is slated for a major expansion and renovation after the Johnsburg Town Board's recent approval of a joint construction project with ORDA.

The enclosed pavilion will first be reduced to largely a skeletal structure and then through a cooperative effort between the Town, ORDA and Lincoln Logs the building will be expanded in size and rebuilt. The newly designed building will be in keeping with the aesthetics of the open pavilion and the park generally.

Funding for the project comes from a \$135,000.00 National Grid Grant awarded ORDA. In addition the Town is working towards applying the long withheld remaining \$32,000 of the Ski Hut insurance settlement towards the project.

During the summer months the building, which remain in Town ownership, will help to enhance the Youth Program. It may also become an asset for the Teens Only Program and help provide more activities for teenagers.

In the winter months the structure will serve as a lodge for the tubing and ski operation run by ORDA at the Ski Bowl.

Persons interested in learning more about the project should stop by the town hall where preliminary plans are on display.

(Cont. on page 2)

More Takes

Scrap Metal Contract

The Town Board has entered into a contract with Eastside Auto for removal and sale of scrap metal at the landfill. The Town will get \$200 per gross ton.

Ski Bowl Park Grant

After much delay the contract for the Ski Bowl Park improvements has been received at Town Hall. The contract has now been executed and returned to the state. The first work under the grant is expected to be resurfacing of the town tennis courts. Joel Beaudin is assisting the town with administration of the grant.

(Pavilion, cont. from page 1)

The timing of construction will depend on bureaucracy issues associated with starting draw-downs on the National Grid Grant.

The project will be entirely grant or insurance proceeds funded without taxpayer impact. Though the Town is building heavy, we are already paying expenses associated with this building ie: electric, heat, insurance, which has been deteriorating to a point of great disrepair.

It should also be noted that the renovation plans include keeping the beautiful stone fireplace.

Don't Forget to Vote

Tuesday, November 4
Polls are open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

All voting in the Town of
Johnsburg takes place at the
Wevertown

Community Center
Voter Registration Days

Wed., Oct. 9 5-9 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 11, 2-9 p.m.

Voter registration
At Town Hall

Warren County Tax Woes

When your land tax bill arrives in early January it might be helpful to think of it as a pie consisting of three slices. Of those slices, County, Town & Fire, the largest slice is the County tax. Because the bottom line consists of the total of the three slices, the current County budget dilemma is of important consideration for all land owners in the Town.

The County budget is facing extreme pressures from county debt service, gas prices and inflation generally. The debt service consists of projects that the County has bonded recently, including the new Health and Human Services building now under construction.

Last February, County Budget Officer and Warrensburg Supervisor Kevin Geraghty warned that absent dramatic spending cuts the county portion of your tax bill could increase by as much as 35%. Supervisors then required an across the board 3% reduction for every department in the county.

On September 10 the budget committee reconvened and was advised that with the 3% reduction and other cuts made the anticipated tax increase was down to 11.61%. The board to a person found this hike unacceptable and has directed the budget officer to initiate another round of cuts and reductions aimed at getting the anticipated increase down in the area of 6%.

The Board is further reviewing other options which include overtime caps, sale of county lands, hiring freezes and even potential gutting of departments.

In Town Hall we have been hunkered down working on our smaller slice of pie. The Town budget however will likely be overshadowed in significance by the county budget impact. The goal of course is to contain the bottom line, the impact of the total 3 budgets that combine to establish what comes out of your pocket. In a year when the county budget is near crisis it will be even more important to attack the fiscal challenges of the town's financial situation.

Town Budget Calendar

Budget Officer Reviews and Prepares

A tentative budget with the Clerk by

Sept. 30

Town Clerk presents Tentative budget

To the Town Board by

Oct. 5

Review & Revisions by Town Board;

Preparation of Prelim. Budget;

Filed in Town Clerk's Office

Upon completion of review and
modification of Tentative
Budget, and prior to Public
Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing-Publication

At least (5) days prior to hearing

Public Hearing by

Thur. following Nov. Election
May be adjourned, but not
beyond Nov. 15

Final Revision of Prelim. Budget

After public hearing but prior to
final adoption

Adoption of Budget by

Nov. 20

Note: A tentative budget is not for public issue. Copies of the budget may be distributed to the public after it becomes a preliminary budget)