

Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Short Takes

Fire & EMS Budget Process

Town Board members Frank Morehouse and Gene Arsenault met with the Town's fire departments and emergency medical service to ascertain budgetary needs for the 2010 budget. The information provided to them by fire chiefs and squad leaders will ultimately be considered as the Town's proposed budget is written this fall.

Occupancy Tax

Occupancy Tax applications are available online at www.johnsburgny.com Follow the link under Town News. The applications may also be picked up through Cherie at the Town Hall.

Pavilion/Lodge Work

The joint project between the Town & ORDA to fully restore the Ski Bowl Pavilion is again underway. The Lodge will be completed and operational for the 2010 ski season and summer youth program.

Solar Options Explored

Councilman Ron Vanselow moved quickly to help the Town complete the required application to seek grant funding for possible installation of a solar panel system at Town Hall and Tannery Pond Community Center. If the grant were awarded for one or both buildings, the project would pay for itself in a few short years by the savings generated from using the alternative energy source.

Cell Service

Efforts are continuing to move toward a first cell tower in North Creek and a potential second site in Wevertown that would move westward toward coverage in the hamlet of Johnsburg. In North Creek the topography has proven very challenging and the APA has had some difficulty with the tower heights.

County Budget Crisis at Breaking Point

With the Warren County budget due in a matter of weeks the Board of Supervisors is fast approaching a drop dead date in efforts to make up what as of this writing appears to be a \$4 Million shortfall.

In essence, there are only two ways to meet this challenge; either make massive cuts in county spending or anticipate a massive county tax increase to offset the gap.

In June the Board cut some 22 positions, a necessary first step which only made a small dent in the shortfall. Supervisors are now discussing the best way to make the cuts and determine what positions should or should not be on the chopping block.

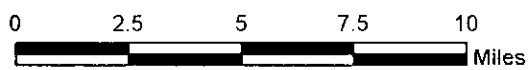
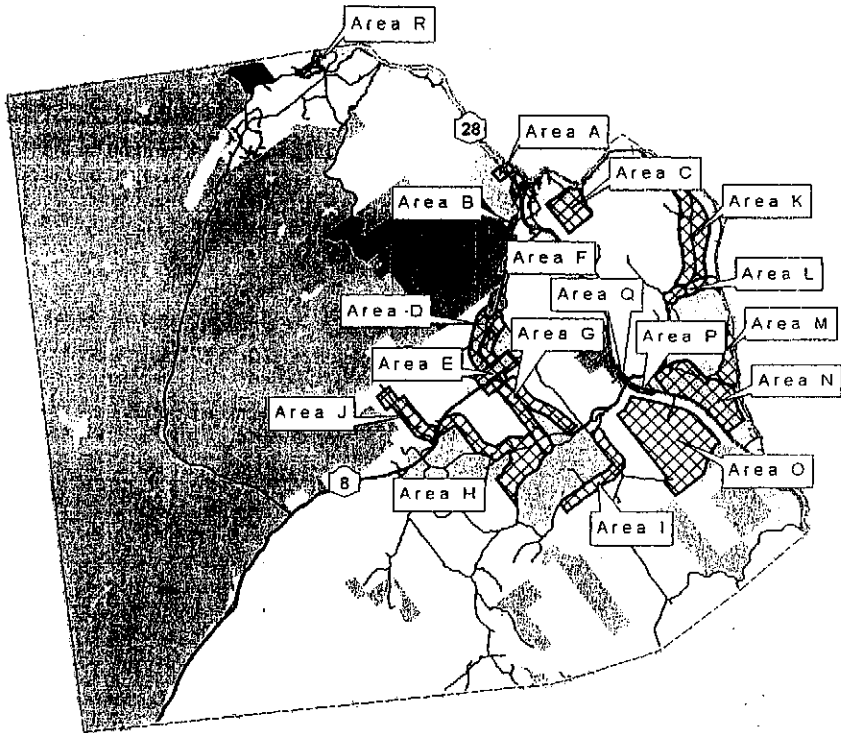
As Johnsburg's representative to the Board, I have advocated a position which to be frank has not gained much traction. I believe that more attention needs to be paid to what in my opinion is the fat at the top of the organizational chart. Three years ago our county operated without a Human Resources Office, using the Personnel Department to handle employee matters. Four years ago the County had 1 person managing the responsibilities of Clerk of the Board and Administrator. We now have two people. About ten years ago our County's Information Technology Department was staffed by 3 persons. That office now has 11 employees, despite the fact that all county computers are fully warranted. Significant high end non—mandated fat in my opinion also exists in other departments, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars.

My position has been to look first at the high end fat and only secondly at line positions. For example, elimination of the HR Department, moving these services back to personnel, creates a net savings of \$150,000. In order to gain similar savings from social workers, nurses and secretaries, we would have to lose 4 or more people who actually have hands on contact with the public.

I have also proposed a pay reduction for Supervisors as well as a massive reduction in departmental contract expenses.

Part of this amounts to a fundamental rethinking of what government does. I submit that in the current economic climate the priority of government must return to providing of essential services.

This to me is a continuing, long term story. With the fundamental financial shifts that are occurring, the next several budget cycles may be every bit as challenging as this one.



Land Classification

Hamlet	Wilderness	Proposed Map Amendment Area
Moderate Intensity	Canoe Area	
Low Intensity	Primitive	
Rural Use	Wild Forest	
Resource Mgmt.	Intensive Use	
Industrial Use	Historic	
State Administrative	Pending Classification	

Zoning Changes To Be Discussed

An information and discussion session will be held October 20, 2009 as part of the regular Town Board meeting with respect to zoning changes to be considered by the APA for the town.

The proposed 18 changes are the product of a review undertaken some years ago by Dr. Richard Lamb, APA officials and local members of a zoning advisory committee.

Below are the proposed changes. More information and map locations are available at Town Hall.

The Town and APA are very interested in your opinion on these changes. Please attend the upcoming meeting if you have an opinion or are in need of more information. The proposed changes are only discussion points at this time. They are as follows:

- AREA A: Low intensity use to Hamlet; 75 +/- acres
- AREA B: Low intensity use to Hamlet; 20 +/- acres
- AREA C: Hamlet to Rural use; 365 +/- acres
- AREA D: Low Intensity use to Moderate intensity; 125 +/- acres
- AREA E: Low intensity use to Moderate use; 280 +/- acres
- AREA F: Low intensity use to Rural Use; 125 +/- acres
- AREA G: Rural use to Low intensity use; 600 +/- acres
- AREA H: Rural use to Low intensity use; 850 +/- acres
- AREA I: Rural use to Low intensity use; 405 +/- acres
- AREA J: Rural use to Low intensity use; 345 +/- acres
- AREA K: Rural use to Low intensity use; 735 +/- acres
- AREA L: Rural use to Low intensity use; 220 +/- acres
- AREA M: Rural use to Resource management; 230 +/- acre
- AREA N: Low intensity use to Rural use; 915 +/- acres
- AREA O: Rural use to Resource Manage; 1740 +/- acres
- AREA P: Hamlet to Rural use; 35 +/- acres
- AREA Q: Moderate Intensity to Hamlet; 20 +/- acres
- AREA R: Rural use to Low Intensity; 90 +/- acres.

Figure 1. An overview of the Town of Johnsburg showing the proposed map amendment areas overlaid on the Adirondack Park Land Use & Development Plan Map.

Volunteer Sought

The Town is looking for a volunteer to serve as liaison between the Town and the Outreach Center. This volunteer position would involve attending Outreach meetings and reporting back to town officials. Interested persons should contact Cherie at Town Hall.

Field Renovations

Efforts are being made to explore field renovations, particularly dug-out renovations at the North Creek & Sodom ball fields. Stay tuned for more information.

Volunteers Lauded

Pursuant to a recent Town Board resolution, volunteers from various service groups and organizations were both thanked and celebrated in a brief ceremony before the recent production of "Love Letters" at Tannery Popd. Thank you to the many volunteers who give so much to our community and a special thank you to Lyle Dye who organized and produced this event.

Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant flushing in the North Creek Water District is scheduled for October 7, 8 and 9.

