

## **News from the Supervisor's Office**

### **Chris Legg**

The Town awarded the Andrews Road water district extension and water tower contract to the Casinella Excavating of Warners NY. As the low bidder, Casinella is well qualified to complete the project. Despite escalating labor and material costs, we kept the project cost at the original 2018 estimated cost of \$7.7M by changing the system design and the pipe material. Work will begin as weather permits. Due to long lead items, the project will be completed in early 2027. The NYS DEC \$4.4M and US EPA \$1.85M grants remain intact to pay for most of the project. The remaining cost is covered by bonding. The Town water system is financed as an enterprise fund. The costs are borne by Town water customers only. There is no tax on Village residents or Town residents without water service.

The first major improvement to the Austin Arena is completed at \$300K below budget. Austin Park sports equipment, tools, and lawn mowers are stored in the north end of the building. No trucks are parked in the improved area. The electrical system upgrade includes a 100-amp service outlet for soundstage and other high amperage uses. The Skaneateles Volunteer Fire Department will no longer spend thousands of dollars on generator rental. Other community activities may also use the improved electrical system. Some additional landscape and tree planting will continue as weather permits. The work also restored heating in the south end of the building.

The Town expects to award the pickleball court construction project in May to commence work for summer play. The construction project is entirely funded by a public-private effort. The Skaneateles Pickleball Club generously raised over \$250K and NYS Senator Rachel May provided a \$200K grant. The Town must meet all requirements for the grant administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY).

The spring season brings the routine of transition from snow clearing to road work and parks cleanup. Lakeshore Baseball and Softball is starting and Playday and Clift Park swimming will soon follow. The Water Department continues to repair water main breaks due to continued frost heaves. To report a water break, disruption, or emergency call 315-729-3483.

The Town remains on budget through the first quarter. The 2026 tax levy is \$44,906 less than the 2025 tax levy, despite increased healthcare and other costs. Transfer Station permit remains at \$100 for the second year in a row. The Transfer Station trash, recycling, and construction debris disposal expenses for 2025 (\$247,502) decreased by \$19,335 compared to 2024. Implementation of sorted glass disposal at no cost to the Town avoided increased recycling costs.

The Town continues good stewardship of funding, facilities, and equipment.