

## State of the Town of Ossian 2019

The beginning of a new year allows us to look back and reflect upon the accomplishments and successes of 2019. Positive results are the product of hard work and determination; something that the employees, office holders and residents of this town exhibit in their day to day routine. The Town of Ossian is regarded by many as one of the best locations in Livingston County.

### Operations

#### **1. Town Board**

The Ossian Town Board continues to focus on current issues and obligations, while at the same time keeping an eye to the future.

Two projects that the town board initiated during 2019 were; creation of a solar law and updating our current zoning laws. Both projects are scheduled for completion in 2020.

At year's end the Town of Ossian remains debt-free, for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, and the 2020 town budget is tax-cap compliant.

Last, but not least, the Ossian Town Board will miss the many years of service of Councilman David Mark, and, at the same time, welcomes back veteran town board member John VanHeusen.

#### **2. Highway Department**

With a crew of 3 full-time employees and minimal part-time help, Superintendent Shaun Metcalfe, of the Ossian Highway Department, can take credit for some of the best maintained roads in Livingston County. During 2019 Shaun & his crew oiled and stoned 6.5 miles of roads, put down over 3000 yards of gravel on our dirt roads, and with the Town of Nunda, installed 6000 feet of tile into Shaw Road.

Several roads have received needed ditching and pipe replacement. All graveled road were graded and brined, and all roadsides, town & county, were mowed three times, enhancing safety and creating a pleasant appearance.

Town roads scheduled for 2020 CHIPS projects have been shimmed with blacktop, making them ready for the upcoming season.

With all this work being done in town, our highway crew was still able to bring in over \$40,000 by working with the Livingston County Highway Department, which allowed our highway department to stay within their allotted budget.

Our hard-working highway department received a new 2020 Western Star plow/dump truck in November and it was paid in full with existing funds.

The Town of Ossian residents appreciate the excellent job done by Superintendent Metcalfe and his crew.

#### **3. Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Steve Rauber continues to run the office of Town Clerk & Tax Collector with efficiency and dedication, while at the same time making everyone who comes into his office feel welcome. It is obvious that our Town Clerk truly appreciates the Town of Ossian and its residents.

#### **4. Code Enforcement**

2019 proved to be another typical year for Code Enforcement Officer Bob Bourgoine. He issued 29 permits for various projects, issued 7 violations for unlicensed motor vehicles and performed many building inspections.

Bob found time to attend all required code schools and serves on the Town of Ossian Zoning Update Committee.

#### **5. Town Justice**

Judge Don Wilson has seen many changes to the local court system in 2019 and more will be coming in 2020. As an added responsibility, Don served as judge for the Livingston County Centralized Arraignment Program for the week of April 22-29.

Even with all the increased court activity, Don has completed all training and testing requirements for 2019. Beginning in 2020, Judge Wilson will be holding court twice a month in the Town of Ossian. Court will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month at 5:30pm.

## **6. Historian**

Town Historian Rhea Walker has continued to go above and beyond in 2019 conducting historical research, collecting items for display, providing historical newsletters and historical programs at our town hall. Rhea is also credited with procuring roadside historical markers, conducting the annual cider and cookie sale, putting together a display at the 2019 Community Picnic and making the Ossian Summer Youth Program a huge success.

## **7. Assessor**

Assessor Holly Smalt continues to perform the duties of assessor in a timely and efficient manner. These duties include addressing exemptions, transfers, escrows, and address changes, along with meeting deadlines for filing the tentative and final tax rolls with the Town Clerk. Along with performing these duties Holly has fulfilled all requirements for continued education and training. In recognition of her efforts, Holly was appointed in August 2019 to another six-year term as assessor for the Town of Ossian.

## **8. Livingston County Youth Board**

In August 2019 Tony Scavone decided to step down as the Town of Ossian's representative to the Livingston County Youth Board after 6 1/2 years of service.

Also in August, Heather Pero was recommended to Livingston County by the Ossian Town Board to serve as Tony's replacement to the Youth Board.

## **9. Livingston County Office for the Aging**

In October, Rozanne Morsch was recommended to Livingston County by the Ossian Town Board to serve as the representative for the Town of Ossian to the Livingston County Office for the Aging Committee.

## **10. Livingston County Seniorama & Teen Recognition Award Ceremony**

Every year Livingston County recognizes its outstanding senior citizens and teens from each town in the county.

These individuals are recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to each of their towns.

In 2019 Dominick and Ann Martello represented the Town of Ossian at the 2019 Seniorama and Jillian Schramm represented our town at the Annual Teen Recognition Award Ceremony.

## **11. Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board**

Chairman Tom DePuy of the town's Zoning Board of Appeals and John VanHeusen of the town's Planning Board have both had the opportunity to work with the Livingston County Planning Board. Matters addressed were variances within the town, along with our proposed solar law and zoning law updates.

## **12. Ag & Farmland Advisory Committee**

The town's newest committee, the Ag & Farmland Advisory Committee, is tasked with implementing recommendations set forth in our newly adopted Ag & Farmland Protection Plan. Chairperson, Mary Ann Scharnberg, and her committee were instrumental in organizing the Ossian Community Picnic held on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Heath Homestead, which placed an emphasis on agriculture in our town.

### **Goals for 2020**

The Ossian Town Board is committed to completing work that has already been initiated namely laws and regulations regarding solar development in our town and updating our current zoning code.

These projects, along with responsible fiscal policies will benefit our town and its residents for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Dwight Knapp  
Supervisor  
Town of Ossian