

State of the Town of Ossian 2022

The beginning of a new year allows everyone to reflect on the activities of the previous year. I would like to extend my appreciation to all of employees, officials and residents for their hard work and dedication in making the Town of Ossian a place we can all be proud of.

Operations

1. Town Board

The Ossian Town Board continues to keep an eye on the future by updating our local laws as needed and placing them on the Town's website for everyone to review.

This year the town added about an acre and a half to the highway facility. This addition increases the parking lot and storage area and simplifies the property lines.

As to the Town's financial position, we continue to be debt free. Due to the 2022 assessment revaluation, the Town's tax rate fell from \$10.57/1000 of assessed value in 2022 to \$8.30 for 2023.

The Town Board was also able to keep the 2023 Town budget under the 2% Tax Cap Levy required by NYS.

2. Highway Department

2022 was another busy year for the Ossian Highway Department. The highway crew applied oil & stone to 7 miles of town roads, accomplished ditching, brush cutting and pipe replacement in preparation for the 2023 road projects. All unpaved roads received gravel and were graded twice. Seasonal roads received needed maintenance while our Town and County roadsides were mowed four times.

While accomplishing all this work in town our highway department was able to earn \$55k for the Town by doing work for Livingston County.

The long-awaited delivery of a 2023 Western Star 10-wheeled dump truck is due to arrive sometime in January 2023. This truck will replace our oldest dump truck, a 23-year-old Sterling.

Many thanks to our Highway Department for maintaining Ossian's reputation as having the best roads in Livingston County.

3. Town Clerk/Tax Collector

John's first year as Town Clerk and Tax Collector has been a learning experience for him. Taking over from someone else is always a challenge, but with help from his deputy, Natalie Welch, everything is coming together and they are both looking forward to 2023.

4. Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Bourgoine, issued 37 permits in 2022 for everything from a demolition project to new construction and many property improvements. Bob also completed mandatory NYS training.

5. Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board

ZBA chairman, Tom DePuy, reports a relatively quiet year with his committee having to rule on four variance applications.

6. Town Justice – Don Wilson

As of 12-6-2022 Judge Wilson had received no tickets associated with deer season, whereas 8 to 15 tickets are normal.

During 2022 Judge Wilson decided on two small claims cases and three hearings requiring his response. One hearing involved whether a defendant's statements, made at the time of arrest, are admissible in court.

Another hearing was to determine if the defendant's right to call an attorney was denied and the third hearing was to determine law enforcement's "probable cause" for making an arrest. All hearings required considerable time & research to make a decision.

Along with these court duties, Judge Wilson completed a mandatory, once every 4 years, tour of the county jail, 17 hours of continuing education and attending Livingston County Magistrates and Court Clerks' meetings.

7. Assessor

The Assessor's Office has completed a successful revaluation project for the 2022 Assessment Roll and has claimed an equalization rate of 100%. Along with completion of this project Holley continues to perform the duties of the assessor and her office in a timely and efficient manner.

Each month of the year is spent doing field review of new construction, open permits and verifying sales, along with address changes, processing sales transfers and keeping office files up-to-date.

The renewal exemption process starts in October and all renewal and new exemptions need to be filed by March 1st, which is the Taxable Status Date. This information was then processed on the 2022 Assessment Roll and submitted to the county in early April. The Tentative Assessment Roll was filed with the Town Clerk May 1st. Grievance day was June 6th. The final assessment roll was filed with the town clerk July 1st.

As well as completing the revaluation project and performing the day to day duties of the assessor Holly has also fulfilled all requirements for continued education and training credits for 2022

8. Livingston County Seniorama & Teen Recognition

The 27th annual Livingston County Teen Recognition event was held April 27, 2022 at the Willow Creek Event Venue in Lakeville, NY. Four teens from the Town of Ossian were honored at this event and they were Trinity Cartwright, Collin Gay, Tyler Harris and Tiffany Young.

Tom DePuy was chosen to represent the Town of Ossian at the 41st annual Livingston County Seniorama ceremony. This event was also held at the Willow Creek Event Venue on May 7, 2022. A special thanks to Heather Pero and Roxanne Mosch for representing the Town of Ossian at the Livingston County Youth Board and the Livingston County Office for the Aging

Goals for 2023 are for everyone to continue working together and enjoying our beautiful town.

Sincerely,
Dwight Knapp
Supervisor
Town of Ossian