



Town of Sweden *Snapshots*

Volume 17, Issue 3

Fall 2019

A message from the supervisor's office

Most of us are thinking about back-to-school, football and fresh apple cider right now. At the Town of Sweden we are thinking about traffic safety, road work, water lines, building improvements, sidewalks and the 2020 budget.

I would like start with water because tremendous strides have been made over the past 18 months, and in particular the past six months, towards bringing public water to some of our rural residents who so desperately need or want it.

I last reported that the Town filed its first ever Rural Development Application for water expansion on May 10. The application was to fund

a new district on Lake Road from just south of White Road to the Bergen town line; on Redman Road from Fourth Section to White Road and on Countryview Terrace.

Over the next two months, we supplied supplemental information including sampling a dozen wells in the proposed district for a variety of impurities/health hazards. The sampling information helped earn enough extra points on the application to merit a preliminary funding award. I have made two quick trips to the Rural Development office in Canandaigua to sign agreements and bring back a resolution that agrees to accept a \$2,327,000 grant and to take a \$2 million loan, if the project receives final approval from Rural Development. The Town Board approved the resolution on September 10.

In some respects, we must sit back and wait for the final federal approval, but on the other hand we were provided with dozens of tasks that will have to



Kevin G. Johnson

be completed following approval and before the next step. It may be a bit optimistic, but my office has begun the work on those dozens of items so that we may go full-steam ahead when final approval arrives. Please know that the next publicly visible step will be the gathering of

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2020 Tentative Town Budget on file

The Town's 2020 Tentative Budget was filed on September 24 and is available on the Town's website at www.townofsweden.org. The Town Board may make changes to the Tentative Budget prior to adopting it as the Preliminary Budget. Once the Preliminary Budget has been adopted and a Public Hearing scheduled, no changes may be made until after the Public Hearing. This ensures that it is clear what budget

numbers are being discussed at the Public Hearing as many changes are made during the lengthy budget process from July through October.

The Tentative 2020 Budget is a \$5,893,066 spending plan that stays under the Tax Cap set by New York State. The increase in the total tax levy is \$72,004 inclusive of all special districts; the estimated allowable increase to the levy is \$82,190.

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2020 Tentative Budget has been filed *continued from page 1*

Assessments grew by \$8,851,294 in the Town including the Village (see table below). A tax base growth factor of .0092 allows a portion of the new assessments to increase the tax cap calculation.

Property owners are generally most interested in the effective tax rate. It is the rate, multiplied by the assessment per thousand, that determines a property owner's individual tax bill. The rate per thousand for properties within the Village of Brockport is tentatively calculated at \$2.59757; the rate per thousand for properties in the Town outside the Village is tentatively calculated at \$4.63308. The impact on a typical property assessed at \$125,000 can be found in the table at the bottom of this page.

Major new components/cost changes in the budget are:

- debt service for the road/parking lot improvement project (\$167,125)
- A scheduled deposit into a newly created Seymour Library capi-

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2020 budget by category

NYS requires municipalities to report its budget in the following categories:

Transportation	\$1,830,900
General Government	\$1,563,720
Culture & Recreation	\$ 832,028
Employee Benefits	\$ 878,725
Home & Community	\$ 208,000
Debt Service	\$ 264,525
Public Safety	\$ 138,710
Health	\$ 2,500
Special Districts	<u>\$ 173,958</u>
TOTAL	\$5,893,066

Assessed	Valuation	Summary
	2019	2020
Village of Brockport	\$235,769,057	\$237,213,725
Town Outside	\$422,608,844	\$430,015,470
Total Town & Village	\$658,377,901	\$667,229,195

Special District levy detail

Gallup Water	\$25,040
Colby Water	\$12,187
East Ave Water	\$ 4,194
Shumway Water	\$11,645
Swamp Salmon Water	\$ 8,763
County Line Water	\$ 4,500
Sweden Hills Light	\$19,480
Crestview Light	\$ 1,995
Hilltop Light	\$17,780
Talamora Light	\$ 9,745
Fieldstone Light	\$ 2,350
Northview Light	\$ 2,000
Walmart Light	\$ 600
N. Poole Light	\$ 2,000
Heritage Light	\$ 2,500
Consolidated Sewer	\$18,000
Fourth Section Sewer	\$14,229
Heritage Sewer	\$ 5,995
Drainage I	\$ 7,845
Walmart Sidewalk	\$ 1,000
Talamora Park	\$ 2,110

Schedule of Elected Officials	Salary
Supervisor	\$26,437
Councilperson (4)	\$7,710
Justices (2)	\$21,635
Highway Superintendent	\$82,210
Town Clerk	\$50,109
Receiver of Taxes	\$26,305

Sweden Town Taxes for a \$125,000 house over 10 years

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Village	\$290.63	\$287.50	\$285.25	\$298.38	\$307.08	\$304.99	\$303.33	\$301.25	\$318.04	\$324.70
Outside	\$559.25	\$557.50	\$558.63	\$581.38	\$593.94	\$587.92	\$588.37	\$591.25	\$573.52	\$579.14

Understanding the new early voting process

The November 5, 2019 general election will be the first time early voting will be practiced in New York State. Early voting centers will operate beginning Saturday, October 26 and be open daily through Sunday, November 3. There will be no voting on Monday, November 4; polls will be open as in the past for a full day on Tuesday, November 5.

There will be seven early voting centers in Monroe County for 2019. **Sweden residents may vote early at any of the seven locations:**

- Greece Town Hall, 3 Vince Tofany Blvd., Greece
- Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd., Spencerport
- MCC Downtown Campus, 321 State St., Rochester
- Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Ave., Penfield
- Marketplace Mall, 1 Miracle Mile Dr., Rochester
- SUNY Empire State College, 680 Westfall Rd., Rochester
- Ridge Culver Plaza, 2255 East Ridge Rd, Rochester

Early voting times vary daily. The latest information from the Board of Elections lists the following times:

- Saturday, October 26 9 am to 2 pm
- Sunday, October 27 1 pm to 6 pm
- Monday, October 28 7 am to 3 pm
- Tuesday, October 29 12 pm to 8 pm
- Wednesday, October 30 12 pm to 8 pm
- Thursday, October 31 7 am to 3 pm
- Friday, November 1 7 am to 3 pm
- Saturday, November 2 1 pm to 6 pm
- Sunday, November 3 9 am to 2 pm

Supervisor's message *continued from page 1*

petitions from a majority of the property owners agreeing to the estimated costs. I also intend to begin working on the next grant application once we get past the petition process for this project. The location for that district has not been determined.

We are also moving ahead on three sidewalk projects. The tentative 2020 budget contains the funds to complete the Holley Street sidewalk project (partly funded by a CDBG grant) and a portion of the Owens Road sidewalk. In addition, a sidewalk project on Persistence Path will be completed next year.

Now that the Community Center cladding project has been completed, and the replacement basketball back-

Electronic Poll Books will be used to make sure that voters do not vote more than once. Once a voter has voted early, the voter may not go to another center or to their own district site to cast a vote on Election Day.

The E-Poll Books will also insure that each voter is given a ballot containing only the candidates they are authorized to vote for in their district. Ballots will be similar to those used for the past ten years and voters will scan it in the same manner. None of the votes cast at an Early Voting Center will be counted until Election Day.

The Town of Sweden voting sites for election day, November 5 remain the same as last year:

- Districts 2, 3, 4, 9 & 11 Sweden Town Hall
18 State Street
- Districts 1, 5 & 6 Brockport Central School
Training Center
40 Allen Street
- Districts 7, 8, 10 & 12 Community Center
4927 Lake Road

Polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm. For complete voting information, please call the Monroe County Board of Elections at 753-1550 or visit:

<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-index.php>

boards ordered, we are taking a closer look at the main bathrooms and the kitchen at the Community Center. Councilperson Patricia Hayles is meeting with the Town Architect to develop plans and estimate costs.

Following the Town Hall parking lot re-paving, we replaced the service door and will parge the foundation of the building and replace the carpet in the back entrance stairwell.

Two years ago the Town Board moved our senior recreation programming to the Community Center. We have leased the entire old senior center to Lifetime Assistance since that time. Recently we listed the building with a commercial real estate broker. While most of the costs of the building are now born by Lifetime, there are still capital repairs and improvements born by the Sweden taxpayers. We believe that money could be better spent on providing programming to our seniors.

Finally, I remain diligently engaged with the NYS DOT regarding safety concerns, mainly on Route 31, but in several other areas as well. I believe that my constant, unrelenting calls for action will be heeded at some point in the near future. I appreciate your patience as we continue to press for these important safety improvements.

Kevin Johnson, Supervisor

The Magnificent Niagara Escarpment

The Niagara Escarpment (often referred locally as the Brockport Hill) is one of the world's natural geological wonders. It formed over millions of years, approximately 430-415 million years ago, in the Silurian geologic time period. This was long before dinosaurs first appeared on earth. It is more than 650 miles long, runs predominately from east to west, beginning near Watertown, New York and extending into Ontario, Canada, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. It is a huge ridge of sedimentary rock that stretches up to 1,675 feet high.

An escarpment or cuesta is a ridge with a gentle slope on one side and a steep slope on the other. The Niagara Escarpment geologically is a ridge where harder sedimentary rock overlies a softer layer with the whole being tilted somewhat from the horizontal. This results in a long, gentle backslope that conforms with the resistant strata or caprock. Differential erosion, by weathering and stream action, exposes the front slope, or steep slope, of the escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment runs horizontally through the Town of Sweden from east to west. It has a caprock of dolostone which is more resistant and overlies the more easily eroded shale rocks. The gentle slope extends south and the steep slope of the escarpment faces north. Although early settlers in the late 1700s destroyed all the virgin beech/sugar maple forests that covered 97% of the town, the Niagara Escarpment still harbors secondary growth of these virgin forests, a treasure indeed!

The Niagara Escarpment is an ever evolving landform that continues to erode in a southward direction, as it has for millions of years. It has witnessed glaciations and the extinction of the dinosaurs. In some places thick glacial deposits conceal the Niagara Escarpment, but it continues under the glacial till and reappears again on its journey westward. It forms the three waterfalls in the Rochester Gorge, where the Genesee River cascades over the escarpment and through the city. As the escarpment runs westward, it is most famous as the cliff over which the Niagara River plunges forming Niagara Falls for which it is named.

The Niagara Escarpment is special and important for many reasons. It was once the rim of an ancient shallow sea. It was covered by thick glacial ice sheets and was carved out as the glaciers melted. It is rich in Silurian age fossils. It is habitat for many animal and plant species. It is a good location for agriculture with the moderating effects of the great Lakes. It boosts an economy with both renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

Geography of the Niagara Escarpment states it is home to 53 mammal species, 36 reptile/amphibian species, over 300 bird species and 90 fish species. This includes some endangered species including the bald eagle, black

tern, red-shouldered hawk, Louisiana water thrush, the hooded warbler, the at-risk northern dusky salamander and the southern flying squirrel.

In February 1990, the Niagara Escarpment was designated a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) because Canada recognized its extraordinary value. An agency of the Ontario government, the Niagara Escarpment Commission regulates land use on and adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment has been used and even exploited over time but unless destroyed by the might bulldozer, it always has maintained the ability to return to its natural state via succession.

This masterpiece of living and evolving art, the Niagara Escarpment, travels through the Town of Sweden and is a geological treasure to be cherished!

Kathy Harter, Chairperson

Sweden Environmental Conservation Board

Interior LED program complete; street light conversion next up

The Town recently completed an LED conversion program at three buildings: the Town Hall, Highway Garage and Community Center. Estimated annual savings are \$8,900 across the three buildings. Sweden paid 45% of the conversion costs; National Grid 55%. The payback periods are 1.5 years at the Community Center, 2.3 years at the Highway Garage and 3.3 years at the Town Hall.

Besides the cost and environmental benefit, pickleball players in the gymnasium love the superior lighting!

The Town is also studying the conversion of approximately 100 of the 202 street lights owned by the Town. The street light conversion plan would focus on street lights in commercial areas, high speed roads and intersections (outside of subdivisions).

Assessment field work underway

Town Assessor Tammy Baker has begun field work throughout the Town for next year's assessment update. She is updating inventory and taking photographs. Her vehicle is always marked with Town identification. If there are any questions regarding her activities, please call the assessor's office at 637-8683 for clarification.

Fall brush (only)-pick up scheduled for October 28—November 1

The Sweden Highway Department will conduct the annual fall brush pick-up Monday, October 28 through Friday, November 1. All brush must be placed at the roadside by 7 am on October 28 and no sooner than October 25. Brush must be no longer than six feet and placed parallel to the road. **This is a brush only pick-up.** Use caution when placing brush near storm drains.

Residents may also drop brush off at the highway garage during normal business hours. In addition, a highway truck can be made available for large volumes of brush throughout the year. The truck is parked overnight at the residence and homeowners are responsible for loading the brush. This service is not available for

commercial operations.

Leaf vacuuming will soon begin in subdivisions and will continue as weather permits. For additional information about either of these services, please call the highway department at 637-3369.

Family Halloween fun!

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Department's annual Community Halloween Party will be held on Thursday, October 24 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. The free event is open to families with children in grades four and under.

The two haunted houses (one exclusively for toddlers) are always big hits. Other activities include a costume contest at 7:15 pm, games, face painting, temporary tattoos, crafts and refreshments (apple cider and donuts).

This structured event is a great way to help your children enjoy Halloween in a safe environment. Older children are welcome to attend with families, but the activities (haunted house, games and candy gathering) are restricted to age appropriate children.

The Sweden/Clarkson Recreation Halloween Party is sponsored by Brockport Wegmans. Attendance is usually between 300 and 400 residents. For more information, call the recreation department at 431-0090.

Purchase a tree for Lakeview

The Town of Sweden's Lakeview Cemetery is a place of scenic beauty. Its setting at the top of the Niagara Escarpment, the majestic trees and the meticulous care of the grounds creates a peaceful retreat for those remembering their loved ones.

The Town replaces trees as the cemetery budget allows. Anyone who would like to contribute to this effort may sponsor a tree. Monetary donations will be used exclusively to purchase appropriate varieties of trees. For more information about this program, call the cemetery office at 637-3369.

Sweden/Clarkson Community Center cladding project completed

The re-cladding of the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center gymnasium was completed in July. Large pieces of the stucco-style siding had been falling off, exposing the interior gym walls to the elements. The new cladding

will safeguard the building for years to come. Funds from the Town of Sweden's Building Reserve Fund were used to finance the project.



Fourth annual Community Health Fair—Oct. 16

On Wednesday, October 16, the Sweden Clarkson Community Center will host its fourth annual Health Fair from 9 am to 12 noon. The free event features numerous exhibitors. Medicare representatives from several major carriers will and answer questions about plans and open enrollment. Certified marketplace navigators will help choose appropriate plans. Assisted living, financial ser-

vices, estate planning experts will provide information about financial health. Exhibitors include Wegmans, Strong West, Aetna Insurance, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Healthcare, Well Care/Todays Options, Northwest Bank, Lifespan, Epic Health and health advisors and more. Call 431-0090 for more information.

Fun fall trips for adults of all ages and interests

Pittsford Plaza Trip

Join Sweden Clarkson Recreation on Monday, October 14 for a shopping spree at Pittsford Plaza, Monroe Avenue. Lunch will be on your own. Departure time is 10 am; return is 3 pm. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure. Cost is \$10 for residents of Sweden and Clarkson; \$15 for non-residents. Please register before October 1. Call 431-0090 for more information about trips.

Del Lago Casino Trip

Covered Wagon Tours will provide transportation to the casino in Waterloo on Friday, November 15. If enough participants register, everyone will receive \$25 in free play and \$5 towards lunch. Departure is at 9 am; return is about 4:15 pm. Maximum participants is 55. Cost is \$35 for residents of Sweden and Clarkson; \$45 for non-residents. Please register before October 21.

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee gets underway

The 2019 Comprehensive Plan Review Committee held its first meeting on September 12. Chaired by Deputy Supervisor Robert Muesebeck, members are: Planning Board Chairman Craig McAllister, Board of Assessment Review Member Hank Earle, Environmental Conservation Board Member Greg Sargis, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairwoman Mary Ann Thorpe, Landmark Advisory Committee Chairman David Strabel and four citizens at large, Mark Bubb, Mark Horschel, Bill Johnson and Patricia Connors (former supervisor who chaired the last update in 2015).

According to Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck, the committee plans to meet weekly until its work is done, likely at the beginning of 2020. The committee's recommendations will be made to the Town Board. A public hearing must be held by the Town Board before any of the recommenda-

tions may be enacted. The Comprehensive Plan is a blue print for future development and services in the Town.

Park projects for this fall

Baseball Field Seven at the Town Park has new dugouts thanks to the donation of materials and labor by TMD Contracting and Tim and Melissa Dewey. The Town thanks TMD and the Deweys for their generosity.

The infield of Field Seven has also just been reconstructed so that players next season will have a very improved experience.

An Eagle Scout candidate is working on a plan to install a GaGa pit next to the original playground and perhaps an informational kiosk with maps and brochures.

Sweden Town Park Lodge

The Sweden Town Park Lodge is perfect for your party, meeting or event. Featuring a full kitchen, restrooms and fireplace, the lodge seats 99 indoors and has picnic tables under the covered portico. There is a brand new adjacent playground and a beautiful outdoor setting for photos. Call 431-0090 to learn more or make a reservation. Weekend dates are in high demand!



Wall of Honor at Community Center gets a remake

In 2006, the Towns of Sweden and Clarkson established a permanent Wall of Honor to recognize active duty military service members and those who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Central to the display was the framed American flag presented by Town of Scio Supervisor Daniel Fleming to the Sweden Town Board in memory of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Jason Dunham.

Clarkson Councilperson Jackie Smith and former Councilperson (later supervisor) Patricia Connors collected the original photos and information from local families who had a member serving.

This summer Gold Star Mother Dorothy Reid, who is also President of the Greater Rochester Chapter of Gold Star Mothers, Inc., asked if she could re-organize and update the Wall of Honor. The Towns were honored to have a Gold Star Mother take over the work.

Mrs. Reid has already begun the update and now the Towns are looking for Sweden and Clarkson families to submit information for the display. Information needed about each honoree is: name, rank, job and where the member is serving. Photos should be about 3" x 5".

The information and photos will be collected at the Community Center office. For residents with questions about the Wall of Honor, call the Community Center's main line at 431-0090.

Sweden and Clarkson thank the Reid family for their sacrifice and continued service to the community.



Gold Star Mother **Dorothy Reid** with the Wall of Honor at the Sweden/Clarkson Community Center, 4927 Lake Road. Army Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid's photograph can be seen at the upper left hand corner of the display.

Veteran grave marker program

Supervisor Kevin Johnson is spearheading an effort to map every veteran's grave within the five Town of Sweden owned cemeteries: Lakeview, High Street, Sweden Walker, West Sweden and County Line Road. Highway Superintendent Brian Ingraham has volunteers who place American flags on veterans' graves prior to Memorial Day each year. However, some graves are overlooked because the Town does not have information on all veterans and the existing maps are difficult to read and follow.

Johnson held a meeting of volunteers in July and plans to get those interested in collecting information into the field this fall. Other volunteers will help create a data base and enter the information over the winter. Monroe County Legislator Mike Zale is assisting with the project and has begun aerial videoring of the cemeteries. The goal is to have an accurate all-inclusive data base and map prior to Memorial Day 2020.

Over 30 volunteers have signed up to help with the project. The next meeting has not been set yet, but volunteers will be notified in advance. Anyone seeking additional information or who would like to be added to the volunteer list should call 637-7588.

Mailbox replacement policy

As a courtesy, the Town of Sweden Highway Department will replace mailboxes that have been damaged or destroyed during the winter months as a result of plowing operations. Mailboxes, and posts if necessary, will be replaced with a standard rural mailbox and wooden post.

Please note that the face of a mailbox should be at least 16 feet from the center of the road. The bottom of the post should be 42" above the height of the road surface. Make sure the post is not rotted and is properly supported.

Many residents have opted to purchase specialty boxes, which cost substantially more than a standard box. If one of these types should happen to need replacing, the highway department will be glad to perform the installation, provided that the resident supply the replacement mailbox. Those arrangements can be made by calling the highway department at 637-3369.

Capital infrastructure project will continue in 2020

The Town of Sweden embarked on a three-year \$1.42 million road and parking lot reconstruction project in 2019. It is the largest capital project in the Town's history. A total of ten roads and parking lots will be rebuilt or re-topped during this project. At right, crews put down the final surface treatment on West Canal Road in mid-September. The 2019 work included Hollybrook, West Canal, the town hall parking lot, lodge parking lot and community center parking lot. Remaining for the next two seasons are: Skidmore, East Canal, County Line, the highway garage front parking lot and the skate park parking lot.

Sweden borrowed the first \$688,000 of the project in May; the temporary financing and remainder of the \$1.42 million will be bonded in December 2019.



2019 Budget

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tal reserve fund

- Installation of a sidewalk on Holley Street
- Installation of some sidewalk on Owens Road
- Increased cyber security and information technology costs
- Purchase of new dog control truck & park tractor
- Growing cost of spring and fall pick-ups
- Increase in highway road work
- Increased engineering for sidewalk projects
- Increased engineering for water district formation
- Increases in health insurance costs

There are some areas of budget savings. The Town received an MS4 waiver relieving Sweden of most of the monitoring and reporting requirements for stormwater discharge. This unfunded state mandate cost the Town more than \$21,000 in 2018. The first year of the Splash Pad operation went so well, that the Board decided to eliminate the position of Splash Pad attendant in the 2020 budget (the position was budgeted but not filled in 2019). The Town also saw a slight reduction in required NYS Retirement System contributions.

Special district levies increased by \$2,495 taken as a whole. Individually some districts' levies declined; others rose. Special districts do not impact village taxpayers. Some town outside the village taxpayers may not be in any special districts; others may be in one or more.

The most significant change in special district budgets for 2020 is in the Fourth Section Sewer District. While the levy stayed relatively flat, the cost to individual property owners dropped \$212 from \$374 to \$162. The dramatic decrease is due to the Stonebriar development picking up 56% of the debt service for the sewer district. 2020 is the first of a three-year shifting of the debt to Stonebriar.

Reporting tax exemption information is a required element of the budget. The Town of Sweden has 4,473 tax parcels of which 918 or 20.5% receive some type of exemption. The Town of Sweden's total assessed value is \$1,235,606,100; of that \$568,376,905, or 46%, is exempt from paying Town taxes. There are many types of exemptions. Among them are: government-owned, religious, veteran, agriculture, non-profit, community service organizations, aged, disabled and public authorities.

The budget public hearing has not been called as of this newsletter's press deadline, however it is likely to be held on Tuesday, October 22 at 7 pm at the Sweden Town Hall, 18 State Street. For more information regarding the budget, visit www.townofsweden.org or call the Supervisor or Budget Officer at 637-7588.

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