

Adirondack Underground

Town of Long Lake
Clark J. Seaman, Supervisor
February 2011

In my ongoing effort to keep you informed of current issues here is my first newsletter of 2011. As we begin this year I look forward to working with the Board while we continue to address the many complex issues facing our community.

I again had the opportunity to attend the Christmas lunch with the seniors at the Town Hall site. As always the ladies did a terrific job and the meal was fantastic. Of course Santa came by for a visit eliciting many laughs with his usual wit and good humor. When Santa asked me if I'd been a good boy this year I responded "no I don't think so" and I'm sure some in the community would agree with that. However, after giving it a little thought I think a more appropriate response would have been "it depends on who you ask". In any event, following the meal a drawing was held for the many gifts which were donated by many local businesses and individuals and I had the pleasure of picking the winners' names out of the hat. I



want to personally thank everyone that contributed to this special event. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Recently I was notified by the president of the CVW Long Lake Library Board of Trustees that while they have considered and appreciate the offer, they have decided not to take the loan of \$12,000 from the Town. Instead they will be pursuing other avenues to secure the necessary funding for the library.

Regarding the status of the sale of the Schiffman property, the Board is currently waiting for the Town Surveyor to complete a description of the property outlining the right of way, utility easement and small portion of the property that we want to retain for possible future use to access Lake Eaton as a water source. Once that is complete the Board will decide how best to move forward with the sale of the property. I anticipate we will be able to do so by this spring or early summer.

As I'm sure many of you are aware, AT&T cell service is now available in Long Lake. Councilman Dechene noted at a recent meeting that while I was away on vacation and he was Acting Deputy Supervisor, AT&T went online; he joked that he was able to accomplish in 2 days something I had been trying to facilitate all year. He's right. Good job Dick. Perhaps I'll take some more time off and see if he can get Verizon online also ☺! However, I'm afraid that may not work this time.

My recent emails and calls to the tower company and Verizon have gone unanswered until today. While working on this letter I finally got through to the Verizon cell representative for this area. However, her response to my inquiry wasn't very positive. In a nutshell she told me that while Verizon plans to provide service here in Long Lake it is not scheduled at this time. She noted that Long Lake is one of many sites in the Adirondacks where they will be placing equipment. She suggested I call the Verizon wireless customer service center and express my concerns, and further suggested I encourage all other Verizon customers to do the same. She noted that management does monitor complaint calls and if enough come in from one area it sometimes helps: you know the old "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" concept. I called Verizon customer service to register my concern/complaint and suggest you do as well if you are a Verizon customer.

For some time now we have anticipated the completion of the conservation easement on the former Fynch Pruyn lands that would result in our lease for the Newcomb snowmobile trail being eliminated. The trail would still be available but there would be no lease fee associated with it. However, due to several issues the transaction had not been completed so once again this year the Town budgeted for this expense and paid the fee. Then late last year it appeared progress was being made and we were notified that once finalized, any remaining funds would be credited to us on a prorated basis. However, rather than issuing us a check based on a prorated amount, our payment was returned to us on January 18th. The trail will now be available to us at no cost to the Town.

And while I'm on the subject of monies being refunded to us, last month we received a \$5767.00 rebate from our insurance provider (NYMIR).

As you've probably noticed, most of the work related to the water system has come to a halt due to weather. We will continue in the spring in anticipation of completing several of these projects this year. However, at this time some work is progressing at the Bissell Pit pump station and I anticipate the 72 hour pump tests will be conducted on the Stanton Hill wells early this month. We anticipate final test results will corroborate the preliminary tests that indicate 60 and 70 gpm flow rates on these two wells.

We had two employees retire last year. Marge Durham and Keith Wamback, both long time employees of the Town, retired at the end of 2010. Marge served the community many years as our bookkeeper and Keith worked for the water department, serving the last several years as our water superintendent. Both worked diligently on behalf of the Long Lake taxpayer: we wish each of them all the best as they embark on this next chapter of their lives.

The Board hired Jennifer Crim from Raquette Lake to fill the vacated bookkeeper position. Jenn brings many skills to the office and is already proving to be an asset to the community. If you happen to be in the neighborhood stop by and introduce yourself to her.

In keeping with the Board's commitment to reduce the work force through attrition, we did not hire anyone to replace Keith. However, the Board did offer the water superintendent position to Joe Tokarz. Joe has also worked for the water department for many years. Joe accepted the position and is already proving himself as a capable superintendent.

At our regularly scheduled meeting on February 9th the Board will conduct public hearings on two proposed local laws. Local law number one will allow cold war veterans to receive real property tax exemptions similar to existing law which does the same for veterans who served during times of war. Local law number 2 is a dog control law to be administered by the Town. New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets will no longer be administering dog control in the state.

Finally, as some of you may be aware the County Board of Supervisors elected to give raises to county employees this year. For the record, while I did support the county budget, I opposed any raises for county employees and during deliberation I proposed a 0% COLA just as we did here in Long Lake. Furthermore, after some deliberation, the supervisors agreed to a 0% COLA for themselves: they **did not** get a raise this year.

Until my next newsletter, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our community.

And remember "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

Cherokee Proverb

Sincerely,



Clark J. Seaman,
Town Supervisor